

Friday February 2 1996

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Review

The enigma of Hillary



Fluffy: selling the best-looking band in Britain

The demons of Conrad Black

Camille Paglia on the First Lady

Plus: what makes an opera house great

Phasing of teachers' award planned Labour wins Hemsworth poll

Tories to sidestep pay row

NHS unions join call for 'justice'

Donald MacLeod and Michael White

THE Government is poised to buy itself electoral time and avert a fresh rebellion among parents over class sizes by phasing the teachers' pay award into next year...

The play emerged last night as John Major and Tony Blair engaged in sharp exchanges over the disclosure that senior managers of hospital trusts saw their pay rise by an average 7.6 per cent...

Last night's anger spread right across the public sector pay front, with health and education under the spotlight. Councils which have budgeted for a maximum of 3.2 per cent pay increase for teachers were alarmed by suggestions yesterday that their pay review body may propose 3.8 per cent...

In a tight budgetary year even the lower figure is too high for some authorities. But phasing an award over 18 months - or "end-loading" it with part of the rise paid in April and part next January - would bring the annual cost below 3 per cent which many would find manageable.

By using that device to slash an estimated \$100 million off this year's predicted pay bill for teachers in England and Wales ministers would ease the pressure on local authorities and enable most schools to hold the line on class sizes even if they could not reduce them.

Yesterday's alarm among local authorities arose over a leak to the Financial Times suggesting that junior doctors and nurses can expect about 4 per cent, dentists slightly more and teachers about 3.8 per cent.

Though officially unconfirmed the leak has also thrown pay talks between local authorities and public sector unions into disarray. The unions had already rejected 2.4 per cent but the employers were hoping to settle at around the rate of inflation, currently 3.2 per cent.

Torically, market forces should all get similar treatment in future. Administrative costs had risen by more than \$1 billion since the health service changes of 1990, he said.

Health unions also joined the row demanding justice for their members and enough extra cash to keep and attract staff.

Mr Major pledged his support for fairness over pay but accused his rival of asking "senseless" questions. Even Margaret Beckett, Labour's former health spokeswoman before Harriet Harman, had admitted that the NHS was "under-managed" in the past, he told cheering Tory MPs.

The row immediately became embroiled in the controversy over MPs' £34,086 a year pay which some backbenchers want to see doubled to catch up with comparable professional groups - to the anger of public sector unions and poverty campaigners.

It became clear yesterday that the Cabinet hopes to pass the hot potato to the Senior Salaries Review Body - which deals with judges, senior military ranks and higher civil servants - rather than to the Nolan committee as proposed in a Commons motion signed by nearly half the 651 MPs.

Challenged by Labour's Alf Morris, Mr Major said that "there needs to be a new mechanism" for members' pay which ministers had been considering for some time before the latest backbench campaign.

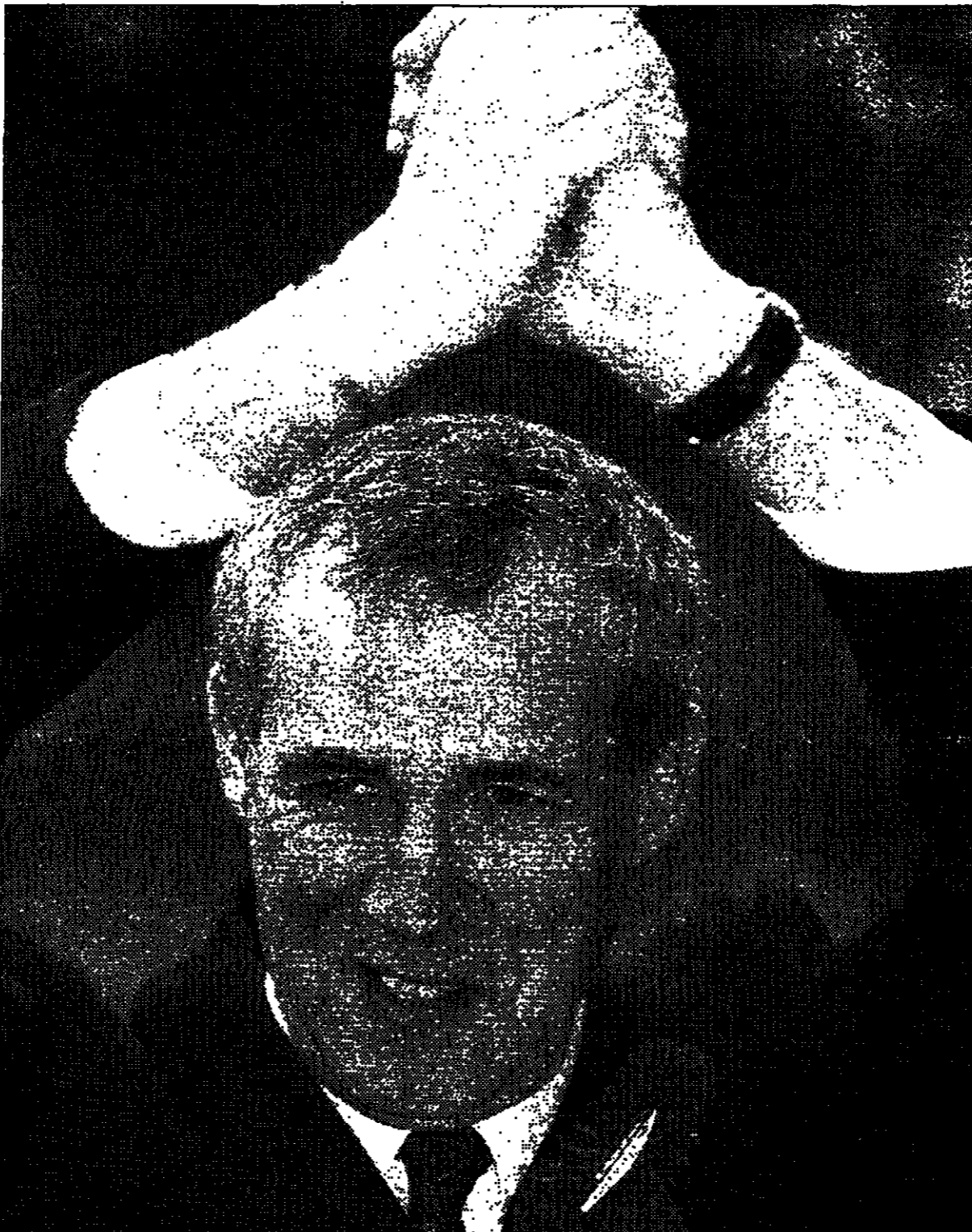
The timetable emerging looks like providing MPs with a pay rise in two phases, on January 1, 1997, and probably after the general election. The package is unlikely to double their pay, but less eye-catching changes to pensions and expenses could yield gains.

A statement is expected next week after agreement has been reached with the Opposition.

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John Trickett, Labour's man of the moment in Hemsworth, was backed by the big guns

have played a part. John Gardner, chairman of the teachers pay review body, has been given evidence of a looming teacher shortage if recruitment and retention are not addressed. He is understood to have opted for a high figure.

Any decision to phase the pay award would anger teachers, and headteachers yesterday told Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, that refusal to implement the recommendations in full would send the wrong message to teachers.

But ministers calculate that a row with the unions or even industrial action in schools would not necessarily damage the Conservatives and would be more embarrassing to new Labour. It is the alliance between teachers and parents which has caused them alarm and contributed to heavy losses in local authority elections.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said the £278 million extra promised for education in the Budget settlement was a sleight of hand.

Major will not face autumn challenge

Patrick Wintour and Martin Walwright

JOHN MAJOR was freed yesterday from any lingering speculation of a direct challenge to his leadership before the next election when the Tory backbench 1922 Committee agreed to ban any such challenge.

The vote of confidence in Mr Major, after a fortnight of restored Tory morale at Westminster, came as Tony Blair, the Labour leader, launched a ferocious assault on the nightmare of a fifth Tory term.

He claimed that the real hypocrite in British politics was not Harriet Harman, but a Tory government that said one thing before an election and did another afterwards.

Confronting the aggressive new Tory tactics head-on, he conjured up a vision of Britain with classrooms of 100, VAT on children's clothes and citizens protected by private security guards.

The Conservative chairman, Brian Mawhinney, described Mr Blair's speech as hysterical, and a clear sign that he was buckling under the pressure.

Mr Blair's attack coincided with Labour's victory celebrations over the Hemsworth by-election, an expected result which cut the overall government majority in the Commons to four.



Sketch, page 2; Pay row, page 5; Letters page 8; Leader comment 8; Peter Preston, page 9

Explaining the backbench decision to suspend the rules allowing a leadership election every autumn, Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee, said: "At the moment a review of the rules is taking place but, because of the consultations necessary, this would take a considerable amount of time."

"The uncertainty involved was not acceptable, hence the executive and the full committee have taken this particular course of action."

The rules of party leadership elections were revised after Margaret Thatcher was ousted, to require 10 per cent of Tory MPs to back a challenge before a contest could be called.

Last night's suspension of the rules, which Downing Street had been privately pressing for, does not rule out the possibility that disastrous local elections in May could see party grandees directing Mr Major to stand down in the interests of the party.

Most observers have long regarded resignation, rather than defeat by a challenger such as John Redwood this autumn, as the only realistic means of removing Mr Major before a general election.

The shoring up of Mr Major's position did not prevent Mr Blair from accusing him of, in effect, mounting his entire election strategy on the turn to page 2, column 3

Student left standing as armed raider escapes on crutches

Tom Sharrett

A THIEF who robbed a student at gunpoint was being hunted by police in Liverpool yesterday after making his getaway on crutches. It is the city's second robbery by a gunman on crutches in the last few weeks.

Hospital accident records are expected to be checked in an attempt to catch the thieves.

towards the city's university campus. Police declined to say how much was stolen but disclosed that it was a small sum.

The student, believed to be from Saudi Arabia, was shocked but not physically injured.

Detective Chief Inspector Frank Thompson, who is leading the hunt for the gunman, said: "He did not have a leg in plaster and there was no other sign of any injury to his legs so there is a possibility that he was using the crutches as a pose, pretending to be disabled."

Russian miners turn on Yeltsin

James Mack in Moscow

RUSSIA'S coal miners, the underground army which came up to the light to back Boris Yeltsin in his struggle for power seven years ago, turned bitterly against their former hero yesterday as hundreds of thousands walked out on strike.

Their basic demand was simple: they want to be paid. Some have received no wages for eight months. "Where is our money?" asked one banner in the Arctic coal city of Vorkuta.

The stoppage was an unpleasant 68th birthday gift for President Yeltsin, who rode to power against Mikhail Gorbachev partly on the crest of the 1989 and 1991 waves of miners' strikes.

One of the most solid strike areas yesterday was the Kuzbass coalfield in central Siberia - the most passionately pro-Yeltsin regions. Today the Kuzbass miners' political hope is vested in Aman Tuleyev - a leading member of Gerennady Zyuganov's revitalised communist party.

Coal union leader Vitaly Budko said half a million mine workers had downed tools, far more than expected.

The state coal monopoly, Rosugol, gave a figure of 300,000, with 118 out of 182 pits and 27 out of 63 open-cast mines shut down. Other mines were refusing to load coal for shipping.

Russia's huge metallurgical industry depends on coal. But first to suffer will be the power stations, with the end of winter two months away.

Many miners face a tough choice between striking in the hope of being paid and keeping their local power stations supplied.

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Advertisement for Bose Wave radio, including product image, text, and contact information.

Sketch

Getting drunk on their own hiccups



Simon Hoggart

SITTING in the House of Commons these days is a bit like riding in a train compartment suddenly invaded by football fans. They mean to harm but are loud and boisterous and, as you bury yourself deeper in your paper, you hope they don't decide to take an interest in your affairs.

erected a lamppost, and like so many drunks they had walked straight into it. "Those were the words of Margaret Beckett!" Mr Major announced triumphantly. Moments later Mr Blair made some other point which was received with groans by the Tories.

Patrick Wintour and David Sharrock

THE Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, was reluctantly edging last night towards acceptance of the British government's call for elections to a Northern Ireland body, but only if the Unionists give guarantees that they will not put up further blocks to all-party talks.

Mourners and riot police clash as republican's funeral ends in stand-off



Mr Gallagher's coffin was carried from the family home in Foleglass, west Belfast, flanked by men wearing black berets, sunglasses and dark scarves around their faces (above). Police wearing riot gear and carrying wooden truncheons clashed with mourners as they attempted to prevent the paramilitary display.

First night

Chip off the old musical block

Richard Williams

NO DOUBT Charles Ives would have been a weekend festival of his marvellous and under-performed music held at the Barbican last month; but he would have been astonished and delighted by what happened to four of his pieces at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

ing figure who invented what came to be known as his most celebrated orchestral effects when he persuaded a couple of brass bands to march towards and past each other in the square of his home town while playing different pieces of music.

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

continued from page 1 back of the schooling of a 11-year-old child of a Labour MP. Confronting the repeated Tory attacks on Mrs Earmann and her choice of a selective school for her child, he said: "It was not an 11-year-old boy that had cost people their jobs, their homes and their businesses. It was not an 11-year-old boy who had raised taxes — it was a 17-year-old government."

S Africa seeks return of old heads

DAVID BORESFORD in Johannesburg A bizarre variation on the Elgin Marbles controversy, South Africa is preparing to demand the return of five human heads discovered in Britain's Natural History Museum.

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

The Hemsforth by-election in a strong West Yorkshire mining community had been caused by the death of the Labour MP Derek Enright, but most interest in the campaign had been created by the intervention of the Socialist Labour Party, largely founded by the miners' leader, Arthur Scargill.

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

ing a focus on the remains of indigenous people held in Europe as souvenirs and museum exhibits. Pretorius asked the French this week to hand over the pickled corpse of the "Hottentot Venus", Saartjie Bartman, kept at the Musée de l'Homme in Paris after she had been paraded as a circus freak in the early 19th century.

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

question of human remains in museums," she said. "But we anticipate a groundswell of demands around the issue." Ms Mabanda said the South African government took the "conscience position" that such remains should be returned for burial with dignity. Ideally the burial would be at a cemetery with an on-site museum recording "the science and history" associated with the remains.

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

Psychologists aid undercover police suffering stress says Detective Chief Inspector Peter North, head of the undercover policing section of the Crime Operations Unit (formerly SO10).

Psychologists aid undercover police suffering stress

Duncan Campbell

UNDERCOVER police are shortly to see psychologists because of the pressures of the double life they lead, according to the officer who runs undercover policing at the Metropolitan police.

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

Advertisement for 'GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG' by Wagner, featuring 'The Royal Opera' logo and promotional text.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or date.

Firemen and boy, 5, die in house blaze

Geoffrey Gibbs

INVESTIGATORS were sifting through the wreckage of a house in a Welsh village yesterday to discover the cause of a fire that claimed the lives of two part-time firemen and a five-year-old boy they tried to save.

The two men, members of the team of about a dozen retained firefighters in Blaenau Gwent, were killed when they went back into the blazing building after neighbours mistakenly reported that a second child was trapped inside. The boy they had earlier rescued from the upstairs of the terraced house died from the effects of smoke inhalation on his way to hospital.

The men who died were Stephen Griffin, aged 42, and Kevin Lane, aged 32. Both were from Blaenau and had children.

Gwent Chief Fire Officer Terry Glossop said the two men knew of the conditions when they went back to look for the second child but had not hesitated.

"Tragically, there was no one else in the house but these two colleagues did not think for one minute of their own safety. They were doing what they joined the service to do — to save life.

"They were still wearing breathing apparatus and when they reached the head of the stairs there was a tremendous explosion. They were caught in it and unfortunately they did not survive."

Byewitnesses said thick smoke was pouring out of the house when fire-fighters were called at six o'clock yesterday morning.

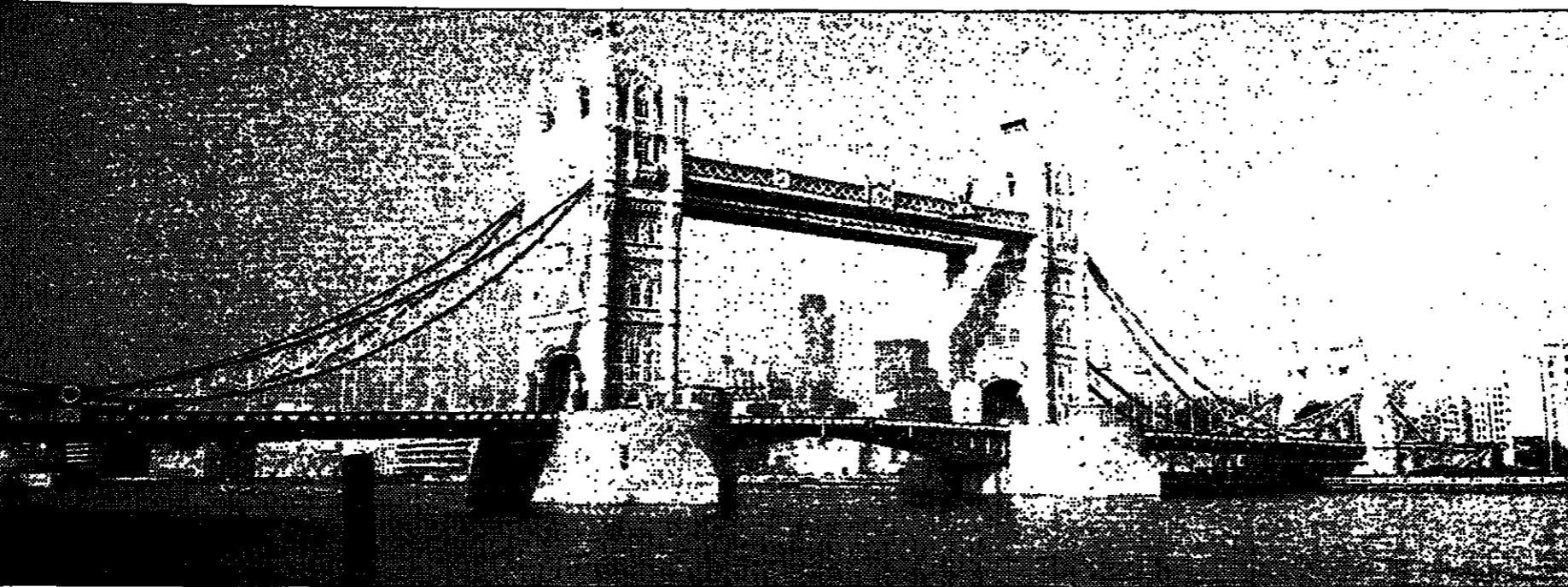
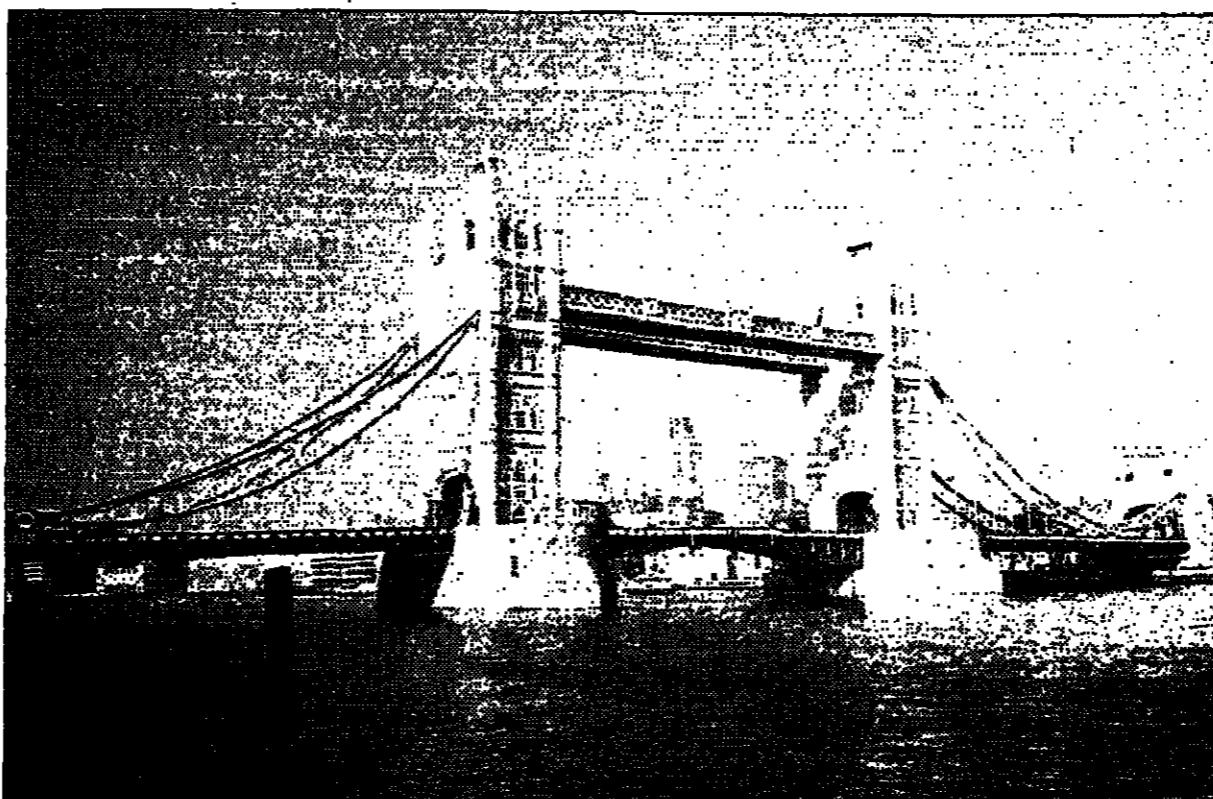
Daniel Harford died shortly after being brought out of the house. His mother Catherine, aged 25, and her younger son Joshua, aged 3, who had earlier managed to escape, were being comforted by relatives last night.

The deaths stunned the former mining village, where flings were flying at half past yesterday. Businesses in the nearby town of Abertillery have started a collection to help to buy essential items for the bereaved mother.

Air Glossop said the fire service was "devastated, shocked and saddened" at the loss of two respected and well-liked colleagues.

According to Fire Brigades Union records, yesterday's disaster brings to 28 the number of firefighters who have died on duty since 1990.

There are 14,782 returned firefighters in England and Wales, paid an annual retainer of £1,500 with extra payments when called out.



At first touch, Kodak's APS cameras (top left) feel very like their compact 35mm rivals. After a few minutes their smaller size and lighter weight become apparent, writes Nicholas Bannister.

They live up to their simple point-and-shoot goal, and there is no doubt that putting a new film in is a much shorter task than with a 35mm camera. But by far the most interesting feature is the ability to switch

between three different shapes for pictures. When I chose, for example, the panoramic shape (above) the image in the viewfinder was cropped accordingly. There was no need to look for faint lines

indicating the picture shape, and it added a new dimension to picture composition. I took the standard shape photograph (top right) from the same viewpoint.

Whether APS lives up to the hype depends on how difficult people find loading their existing cameras. If you are reasonably competent, there is no great advantage justifying paying over the odds.

The real advantages are likely to come in later models with features such as the ability to spell out very specific captions. But some, such as the ability to record short sound-bites, are probably little more than a marketing gimmick.

Kodak launches the Box Brownie of the 21st century

Nicholas Bannister
Technology Editor

THE photographic industry has got together in a last attempt to launch a new film format before customers abandon traditional cameras in favour of video or digital versions.

The Advanced Photo System, launched yesterday, has been developed by Kodak, Nikon, Canon, Minolta and Fuji, but more than 90 per cent of the industry has already li-

censed the technology, which is based upon a 24mm film. The aim is to create smaller, foolproof compact cameras with more features than on the 35mm cameras which currently dominate the market.

Kodak, the driving force behind the new system, unveiled the first APS camera yesterday — 96 years to the day after George Eastman started the era of mass consumer photography with the launch of the Brownie. The industry hopes that APS, which involves new cameras,

films and processing equipment, will put new life into a stagnant photographic market.

A transparent magnetic strip running the length of the film stores information about each shot, some of which will be used to improve calculations automatically made by processing equipment. The more expensive models will store captions.

The APS system has been designed so that users never see the negatives. Research showed that problems with

loading films resulted in about 16 million ruined photographs a year in Britain. The APS film is pushed out of the cassette and fed across the frame after the cassette has been dropped into the camera. The negatives are returned within the original film cassette, and an index print shows the number of each picture.

APS camera owners can select any one of three different picture proportions ranging from panoramic to standard. Top of the range models

will automatically return a partially used film to the first unused frame, allowing photographers to switch film types mid-film.

Kodak has developed eight types of APS camera, of which four, costing between

£80 and £170, will be available in Britain from April. A spokesman said Kodak's APS cameras would cost up to 30 per cent more than 35mm equivalents, with film up to 20 per cent more expensive. Processing would also cost more.

Tesco chain shuts up shop to Buy None Get 189 Free thief

Alex Bollos

BRITAIN'S most prolific shoplifter — who once stole 189 bottles of drink from a single store in a few hours — was banned yesterday from all Tesco supermarkets. A resigned Jim Heritage, aged 37, said after the High Court hearing in London: "Where can I go now? Shoplifting is the one thing I know."

The divorced father-of-two from Coventry, who was barred in 1984 from the Sainsbury's chain and is not allowed in his local shops, has been imprisoned 10 times in 22 years for stealing bottles of spirits, which he then sells.

Tesco had tried to get Heritage on its side two years ago by paying him to advise security staff. But he carried on shoplifting regardless.

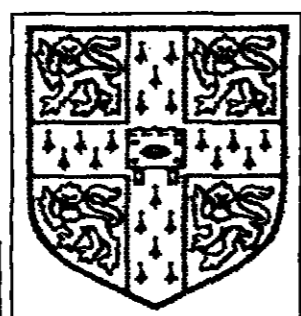
Heritage, who is unemployed and was represented at yesterday's brief hearing by the Citizens Advice Bureau, consented to the injunction. He said there was no point challenging the supermarket chain. Afterwards he said he would try and give up again as he wanted to avoid adding to the five years he has spent in jail. He has been prosecuted 40 times but claims to have got away with countless more thefts.

He said: "I know every individual suffers from it through their pocket but, in my eyes, I'm not hurting anyone individually. Boredom starts it off but then adrenaline keeps me going. Adrenaline is the worst drug in the world."

A Tesco spokesman said: "At the end of the day we have no other way of protecting our property. Stealing is stealing."

Academic uproar at banned book

Leonard Doyle on an anthropological study that a university fears puts its staff in danger



CAMBRIDGE University Press is refusing to publish an important new work on Greek anthropology following advice from the security services and the Foreign Office that publication could provoke a terrorist attack against Cambridge University staff in Greece.

The decision has provoked outrage and incredulity in academic circles and is expected to have wider repercussions for the CUP's reputation as an academic publisher. The editorial board for the CUP's anthropology series has resigned in protest and leading academics are warning that the Press's 40-year history of publishing important works of this kind could end if authors turn instead to US publishers.

The book, entitled *Fields of Wheat, Hills of Blood*, deals with the thorny issue of Macedonian identity. It is an ethnographic study of villages in northern Greece which contradicts the official line that there is no Slavo-Macedonian minority in Greece.

In tendering his resignation, Michael Herzfeld, the British-born professor of anthropology at Harvard University, said censoring the

book "represents an unacceptable restriction of academic freedom", which would damage the Press's reputation and "encourage irresponsible individuals to threaten the safety of scholars".

The decision to pull the book at the last minute followed an extraordinary request by senior officials at the CUP in Cambridge for a "terrorist threat assessment" by officials at the British embassy in Athens and from its chief salesman in Greece, Craig Walker. No Greeks were consulted, nor were the views of the British or US academic experts canvassed. The CUP's actions are also understood to have been motivated by fears of a boycott affecting a lucrative market for its books and revenue from setting some 300,000 English exams in Greece every year.

Anthony Wilson, chief executive of Cambridge University Press, has confirmed that a decision was made not to pub-

lish the book, but refused to explain on what grounds.

The Greek-born author, Anastasia Karakassidou, received death threats two years ago for publishing her research on the Slavic speakers of Greek Macedonia, raising issues central to Greece's dispute with the neighbouring former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Her researches revealed that there were villagers in northern Greece who speak a Slavic tongue and consider themselves culturally "Macedonians".

Internal Cambridge University Press documents obtained by the Guardian, reveal the Press was so concerned about the risk of "terrorist violence" that it felt there was a "moral imperative" not to publish. In a memorandum dated 12 January, a CUP executive, Jessica Kuiper, stated that "it was impossible to discount the advice received from the British embassy in Athens" which

had "warned that publication might put at risk the lives of Press staff in Athens, and of Cambridge University personnel in Greece."


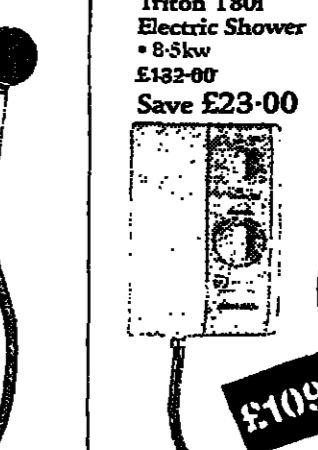


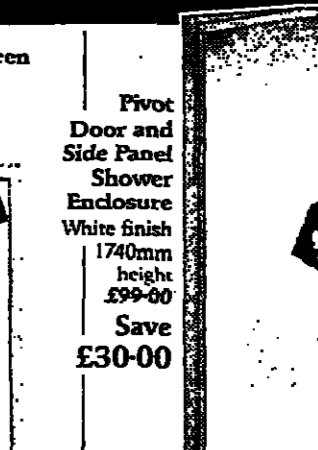
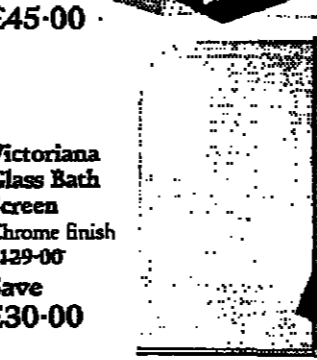

When a committee of senior Cambridge University academics (known as the Syndics) met on 1 December 1995 to decide what to do, they were told that MI6 was worried about the possible effects of publication on Greek public opinion and the consequent risks to British interests. They were reminded of a handful of attacks on British interests in Greece including the murder of a British Council official in 1985.

The Syndics saw copies of a letter from Britain's chargé d'affaires in Athens, Christopher Denne, in which he said reaction to publication could range from "public criticism, protests and demonstrations, or violence or threat of violence against the author or publishers". Mr Denne admitted no British official had read the manuscript.

The Foreign Office says it never advised the CUP not to publish but that "we were asked a difficult question and we gave an honest answer which we stand by."

After the decision not to publish, two senior members of the Press's editorial board, Prof Herzfeld and Professor Stephen Gudeman of the University of Minnesota, immediately resigned. While in the UK, Cambridge professor Jack Goody, the founder of the series, signalled his intention to quit if the decision was not rescinded.

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The smoothly efficient First Lady we see before us, with her chameleon-like blonde hairdos and charismatic smile, is actually a drag queen, the magnificent final product of a long process of self-transformation from butch to femme.

Carmille Paglia

Review cover story

Performing Right Society sharply criticised by monopolies commission over live performances, reports Sally Weale

Royalties 'opt-out' urged for pop stars

THE Performing Right Society, which collects and distributes royalties worth \$170 million every year on behalf of 25,000 British composers and songwriters, was yesterday heavily criticised in a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report which highlighted a catalogue of inefficiencies and inadequacies. The society, which represents composers and music publishers from stars like Paul McCartney to little-known folk song writers and jazz musicians, is being asked to comply with 44 recommendations — far more than in the average commission report. In particular, it urges the society to allow members to administer their own rights in respect of live performances. This could see big name acts opting out to look after their own royalties, taking huge sums of money with them, and challenging the society's exclusive position. Members of the Irish rock



Discord... Bono (left), of U2, which is fighting the PRS, and Paul McCartney, whose fortune is almost all based on royalties



PHOTOGRAPHS: EAMONN MCCABE (main picture) and ROBIN MAYES

band U2 are pursuing a High Court action on this theme, and claim that if they controlled the rights to live performances of their songs they could make more money and get paid more quickly than under the current arrangement. The concern, however, is that less popular composers whose works are performed live in thousands of small venues may lose out, should the society find the cost of collecting relatively small sums prohibitively expensive. The commission was called in to investigate the Performing Right Society in November 1994, following an approach by the Office of Fair Trading which had received a number of complaints from society members alleging unfair practices and administrative inefficiency. Some had complained about the level of administration fees, others claimed the method of collecting royalties favoured some composers at the expense of others.

Yesterday, the PRS acknowledged some of the criticisms and said over a third of the recommendations had been carried out, with others under way. The issue of opt-outs for members who wish to administer their own rights in respect of live performances is being considered before

being put before the board and membership. Society chairman Andrew Potter said: "For over 80 years PRS has genuinely tried its best to serve the needs of an enormously wide range of writers and music publishers. This inquiry has been one of several points in history where we have benefited from tak-

ing a long hard look at ourselves." Yesterday's report was welcomed by Dominic McGonigal, of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, one of the organisations which has been critical of the PRS. "The PRS has improved over the past year or so... but it's still got a lot of sorting out to do."

Consumer affairs minister John Taylor said the director general of the Office of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, would be consulting the PRS to ensure that the report's recommendations were carried out. "If insufficient progress had been made after four months, the Department of Trade and

Industry could make an order requiring the PRS to comply. "The [commission] find that composers, publishers and music users have benefited greatly from the work of the PRS. But they also find evidence of inefficiency arising from deficiencies in corporate structure and management practices," he said.

Stars celebrate as hope glimmers for lesser lights

John Ezard on the reverberations of the report from U2 gigs to local hops

FOR the rock group U2, yesterday's Monopolies and Mergers Commission report is worth millions. "You've made my day — I'm delighted," the Irish group's manager, Paul McGuinness, rejoiced when the Guardian told him its recommendations.

It reminded him of the "tantalising" moment when his musicians grossed \$1.3 million at a venue in Italy — and saw 10 per cent of it vanish at once into the maw of the local performing right society. "It was appalling, we never saw the money again," he said.

That happened several times on U2's 1992 Italian tour — but if the commission's recommendation on live performing royalties is enforced, it won't on their next tour in 1997.

By then, a new breed of hard-nosed rock middlemen will have sprung up to see that the money is channelled to the groups who wrote the songs.

The British Performing Right Society takes a lower percentage. But the group still blames it for failing to distribute large sums to them. "What happened to us in Italy was essentially because of a European system the fuddy-duddy British society failed to crack", Mr McGuinness said.

"We kept protesting to them, trying to get them to collect the money owed to us, but they reacted by retreating into their old way of doing things." Hence U2's longstanding high

court case against the British society.

In its complaint to the commission, the group said the society collected only 50 per cent of money owed and took more than three years to pay this.

For the English Folk Dance and Song Society — which is also rejoicing — the report means at least an extra £1,102 a year. This is the difference between the £1,200 it received from the society in July 1993 — when its songwriting members were allowed to report performances of their work — and the £98 it got last July after the society unilaterally withdrew this system of notification.

Brenda Godrich, a leading member of the society, complained to the commission that the PRS was acting unfairly.

For the 100 PRS members in the 250-strong Association of British Jazz Musicians, the report could mean a total £70,000 extra a year. The association complained of the same injustice as the EPDSS — the PRS's recent reliance on share-outs based on a sample of performances at 460 "significant" UK venues.

The jazz composers, like folk songwriters, say this system leaves out most of the small gigs, folk evenings and cellars at which their work was played. One south London jazz pianist's yearly PRS income has fallen by £340 — "not much for Paul McCartney but enough to pay a gas bill," said Chris Hodgkin, association director of jazz services.

And although McCartney's £400 million personal fortune is almost all based on royalties, less successful musicians complain he has 20 times the PRS compared to their one.



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'Dazzling' first Bacon found

THIS is a self-portrait of the artist in his youth as never seen before, writes Gary Young.

The late Francis Bacon (above) painted the picture of himself in 1930 when he was 21 — and then hid it from collectors for more than 60 years.

The small oil painting, measuring only 15½in by 11in, was discovered by art writer Angus Stewart, who has spent six years trying to trace Bacon's early works.

Mr Stewart, curator of the Francis Bacon and Henry Moore Exhibition at next month's Fine Art and Antiques Fair in Olympia, London, now plans to put the picture on show from the week beginning February 27.

The find has prompted considerable interest in the art world because the self-critical Bacon, who died aged 82 in 1992, was thought to have destroyed most of his early work. As an older man he often bought back works he had sold when he was young simply to get rid of them. He charged 45 guineas for the self-portrait at the time, but it may now fetch over £250,000.

Mr Stewart said: "It is a dazzling work. It is the first painting by Bacon of any significance that we have. He kept this self-portrait for 50 years so it obviously meant something to him."

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'Murder inquiry is never closed. When new clues emerge we are duty bound to follow them up'



The body of John McInnes is carried away from his grave by police at Stonehouse, Strathclyde, for tests which could prove he was the 1968/69 serial killer 'Bible John'

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID MACLEOD

Test on corpse could solve 26-year-old murder

Erland Clouston

A MURDER trail that began 26 years ago in a brassy Glasgow dance hall led yesterday to a white plastic tent in the corner of a country graveyard. In a scene unique in Scottish criminal history, Strathclyde police dug up the 15-year-old corpse of a man many suspect of being a serial killer. Whether yesterday's excavation in the snow-covered Stonehouse graveyard results in a belated judgment against John McInnes depends on tests which will compare his DNA with stains recently detected on the clothing of Helen Puttock, who was the third of three patrons of Glasgow's Barrowland ballroom to be strangled between February 1968 and October 1969, when she was 29. The fact that her presumed killer was rapidly dubbed Bible John from his fondness for Old Testament quotations — and may be linked to the earlier deaths — added a ma-

cabre touch to yesterday's disinterment. It took four hours for the squad of gravediggers to retrieve Mr McInnes's skeleton. The work was hampered by the frozen soil and the fact that his mother was buried above him. "This is not something that anybody enters into lightly," Superintendent Louis Munn reassured the camera crews stalking the silent rows of graves. "A murder inquiry is never closed; when new evidence emerges, we are duty bound to follow it up." In the congested country lane outside the cemetery, a spirit hunter hinted that the police effort might have been misdirected. "The killer was someone from the Motherwell area, is still alive and something to do with schools," claimed Sear Farrag, head of the Glasgow Psychic Centre. His companion was more equivocal. "I do feel he has murdered more than one person. I cannot tell if he's Bible John," she whispered. Stonehouse residents kept their distance. The cemetery lies half a mile from the cen-

tre of the village where Mr McInnes's brother Hector still lives. There is an undercurrent of resentment at the high profile the case has acquired. "They've turned it into a soap opera," complained a pensioner outside the Stonehouse grocers. "I knew the family: Gospel Hall people who never did anybody any harm. Mind you," he added, "you always get the rebel." Just after 11am the remains of Mr McInnes's mother were removed from her eight-year-old grave, placed in a new light oak coffin, and slipped into the back of a silver Volvo estate. She will lie at a Larkhall undertakers until it is deemed appropriate to return her. An hour later the bones of her son, who committed suicide in 1980 at the age of 41, started out on their journey to the Glasgow pathology laboratory 15 miles to the north. It will take up to three weeks for scientists to establish whether he is guilty of Helen Puttock's murder. For the moment, Supt Munn said, the soul of Mr McInnes is not facing any charges.

'Bible John, ghoulish who murdered Scotland's innocence'. Andrew O'Hagan reports on serial killer

IN THE 1970s harassed Scottish mothers had a certain way of talking. It wasn't unusual to hear them warn their misbehaving kids that if they didn't stop their carry on, Bible John would get them. That's what Bible John had become by then; a local ghoulish bogeyman. He was out there somewhere — part of the familiar thipps, threateningly near to hand, but in fact, completely unknown. He was perhaps Scotland's first serial killer — certainly the first phottiff — and a common fear of him almost single handedly ended the sexual innocence of the 1960s. Suddenly, you couldn't just go to dancehalls and be with anybody. He became tied to people's sense of changing Glasgow. And his face became the nightmare visage for children and parents alike. It seems to have started on

February 22, 1968, when an auxiliary nurse called Pat Docker, aged 25, went for a night out at the Majestic Ballroom in Hope Street. It is understood that she changed her mind and went instead to Glasgow's biggest and rowdiest dancehall, the Barrowland. Nothing more is really known about Helen, except that her naked body was found in a south side lane early the following day. She'd been strangled, and a used sanitary towel lay near her body. Jemima McDonald went to the Barrowland on August 16, 1969. She was seen at one point sitting on a sofa in the company of a man with sandy hair. He was neat and tall, with a clean white shirt on. Jemima's body was found by a group of children in a derelict tenement near her own home several days later. She had been strangled and, if



An artist's impression of Bible John

whereabouts, on the nights in question. Two months later, Helen Puttock went dancing with her sister, Jeannie. They drank quite a lot, and each of them paired off with a man called John. Helen's John was sandy haired and neat. They all left the Barrowland together after midnight. Jeannie's man came from Castle-milk, and made off on his own for a night bus. The other John came into the taxi with the two girls. He'd seemed agitated, Jeannie would say later, and he mentioned Moses, and "dams of iniquity"; he later spoke of prayer. The taxi journey was five miles. Jeannie got out first and the other two went off in the direction of Helen's home in Scotstoun. They were last spotted going into 55 Earl Street. Helen's body was found in the back court of that address early the following morning. Her clothes were torn, she was beaten, strangled, and she had a used sanitary towel placed under her left armpit. Her rights were ripped too. And 26 years later it would

emerge that they were also stained with semen. The presence of the three women at the same dancehall, the way in which they were strangled, the fact of their menstruation, the sightings of two of the women in the company of this well dressed, light haired man — all of it pointed to one killer. People at any rate, seemed to want to think of him as one man. The newspapers, on hearing of Jeannie's journey with the man, took to calling him Bible John. It was to become Scotland's largest and most detailed manhunt. The whole city was gone over, but nothing emerged to suggest the identity of the man. In the 26 years since the investigation began, there have been many sightings of Bible John. Certain "lookalikes" had to be given special cards by police to show to those who would harass them, certain they'd found Scotland's most notorious killer. Strathclyde Police were still receiving letters a few weeks ago from people offering information about Bible John.

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY: Uncertainty over finance for new deals raises fear of redundancies and general disruption

Firefighters/Merseyside dispute may spread south

Soumas Milne, Labour Editor. INDUSTRIAL action by firefighters looks set to spread from the North-west to the south of England, as it emerged that the job and holiday cuts which provoked the five month dispute on Merseyside were based on faulty budget estimates. The Fire Brigades Union is preparing strike ballots in Essex and Greater London, if expected budget cutbacks are agreed this month. In London, 650 jobs out of 6,800 are threatened unless the Government agrees to come up with more money for the cash-strapped fire authority. Merseyside firefighters have staged walkouts of be-

tween nine and 24 hours on 25 days since the dispute began last August, at a cost of around £550,000 in police and army emergency cover. The Merseyside authority faces legal action from householders and businesses over fire damage on strike days. But a leaked internal report to Merseyside's chief fire officer has revealed that the authority will have a £2 million surplus for 1995/96 and need never have made the £700,000 cutbacks. However, after nine hours of talks with the Fire Brigades Union at the conciliation service Acas this week, the authority refused to reverse the cuts because it says it may need the unexpected surplus to cover a budget shortfall next year. The cut of 20 jobs and three days leave which led to the dispute were made as a result of an overestimate of firefighters retiring during 1995/96. With savings on pension and lump sum payments, Merseyside Fire Authority is now set to spend over £1.4

million less than planned. Increased reserves bring the surplus to £2 million. Ken Cameron, FBU general secretary, last night said that cuts were now threatening the operational side. He called on the Merseyside authority to reconsider its position. "It is horrendous that the people of Merseyside have been put at risk over five months when it has now been shown the whole dispute was completely unnecessary." A spokesman for the Merseyside Fire Authority said the figures had been "perfectly correct" when the budget was drawn up last February. "We couldn't have predicted this underspend." Twenty thousand JobClub clerical workers are to be balloted for an all-out strike throughout the Employment Service in a dispute over pay, job cuts and casualisation. The Civil and Public Services Association has agreed to step up its industrial action programme, with rolling regional strikes culminating in an indefinite stoppage.

Teachers/Settlement of 3.8pc could mean job cuts

Donald MacLeod, Education Correspondent. SCHOOL governors and parents were yesterday awaiting details of a teachers' pay settlement which could precipitate a second year of soaring class sizes and the loss of teaching posts. The Government's indications yesterday that the settlement will be just under 4 per cent spread alarm among local authorities budgeting for a figure nearer to 3 per cent. But the possibility the award will be phased over 18 months would ease their problem. An unphased award of 3.8 per cent could plunge

schools into a fresh round of redundancies if the Government sticks to its guns over not providing additional funding to cover pay. Local authorities estimate schools are already 10,000 short of the number of teachers needed to teach the national curriculum. "We can expect pyrotechnics," said Graham Lane, education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. Faced with an alliance between schools and parents over class sizes, the Cabinet is expected to phase the award over 18 months or "end load" an award, with part paid in April and part in January. This would cut about £100 million off the pay bill and make it manageable for the majority of local authorities. Schools would still face difficulties in many parts of the country because of rising numbers of pupils. Phasing would give the problems of paying for the award to a new government in 1997.

NHS/'Alarm bells ring' over funding of awards

HEALTH managers said that a 4 per cent pay recommendation, unless fully funded by the Government, would have to be paid for with cuts in services, writes Chris Mihill. Nurses warned that if a deal similar to last year's was proposed, it would cause a fresh wave of disputes throughout the health service. Last year nurses were recommended — and awarded — a 3 per cent rise, but only 1 per cent of it was paid nationally and the rest left to local negotiation. Ten months after settlement date, 24 NHS trusts are still refusing to pay the extra 2 per cent in full. This year nurses asked for 8 per cent and doctors between 5 and 8 per cent. Doctors too

are concerned that there might be strings attached to this year's deal, such as moves towards local pay bargaining, which they bitterly oppose, seeing it as a further fragmentation of the service. A spokeswoman for the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts pointed out that the Government's estimates of inflation were running at about 3 per cent. "If pay exceeds 3 per cent we need to take account of the fact that this may threaten growth monies. We may have to fund part of the award through cost improvement programmes. If it is above 3 per cent and is not fully funded, it will set alarm bells ringing." A spokeswoman for the Royal College of Nursing said the acceptability of a 4 per cent pay deal depended crucially on whether it was fully funded. "There is a world of difference between every nurse getting a certain pay rise on April 1 and a deal they have to fight for in every trust."

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Italy names bureaucrat as next PM

John Hooper in Rome

THE Italian president, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, yesterday asked a 71-year-old former bureaucrat to form a broadly-based government with a brief to keep the country ticking over while politicians try to agree on reforming the constitution.

Antonio Maccanico is Italy's "Sir Humphrey". A quietly spoken career civil servant with a reputation for discretion, he was the right-hand man of two successive heads of state and a prime minister.

He has an impressive reputation for inspiring trust in people of widely differing persuasions. But he is also quintessentially someone linked to the so-called First Republic — the weak and corrupt system of government that was meant to have ended at the general election two years ago.

Though an entirely new political class came to the fore as a result of the poll, the rules under which its members were elected are under which the country is run had barely been tampered with. That remains the situation.

With well over 20 parties more or less equally split between left and right, the country has been unable to sustain an administration since the fall of Silvio Berlusconi's rightwing cabinet at the end of 1994. Mr Maccanico was asked to form his government after three weeks of tortuous negotiations prompted by the fall of Lamberto Dini's non-party "government of experts".

But the final round of talks between President Scalfaro and party representatives did at least reveal a degree of con-

sensus that Italy might be better off with a directly elected president and a two-round voting system along French lines.

Mr Maccanico said the country needed an administration which could "tackle the most urgent questions facing the government during the time needed by parliament to carry out constitutional reforms". Among priorities he mentioned were lower inflation and a return to the European Monetary System.

Before taking office, he will need to select a cabinet, draft a programme, and secure adequate parliamentary backing for both. But, judging by the generally favourable reaction of the majority of party leaders, he will have no difficulty getting cross-party support.

Success would avert the need for a return to the country at a time when most party chiefs have reason to be wary of a vote. It would also provide a government for the rest of Italy's term as EU president. Even so, it is likely to take Mr Maccanico a month or more to clear all the hurdles.

After serving Presidents Sandro Pertini and Francesco Cossiga from 1978 to 1987, Mr Maccanico was made chairman of Mediobanca, the influential Milan-based merchant bank. He later served as a minister in the Christian Democrat governments of Ciriaco De Mita and Giulio Andreotti from 1988 to 1991, though his political sympathies lay with the centrist Republican Party.

In 1993, Mr Maccanico was elected to the senate as a Republican. He returned to government the same year, occupying the cabinet secretary's post under another stopgap prime minister, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

Drug squad snares only itself

Dutch police helped traffickers shift tonnes of narcotics as dealers outwitted them, Paul O'Driscoll in Amsterdam reports

THE Dutch justice system was sharply criticised yesterday for helping smugglers import vast quantities of illegal drugs into the Netherlands.

Large amounts of these drugs, including cannabis, ecstasy and cocaine, were then re-exported to Britain and other countries with the knowledge of the Dutch anti-narcotics police, who failed to alert British customs. Only one shipment, a lorry-load of ecstasy, was ever stopped.

A parliamentary inquiry revealed that hundreds of tonnes of drugs flooded into the Netherlands over a five-year period ending last June, under the eyes of the anti-drug police, known as the Inter Regional Teams (IRT).

The Van Traa parliamentary report released yesterday outlined a police plan which was designed to scare the Dutch-based drugs wholesalers but which went hopelessly awry. The police lost control of their scheme in the early 1990s and unwittingly began working for the criminals they had set out to catch.

During that period, at least £2 billion-worth of drugs were allowed free transit into the Netherlands and on to neighbouring countries.

More than 400 tonnes of cannabis a year were imported into the Netherlands. Only 300 tonnes is consumed each year, even under the country's relaxed drug laws, and more than half of that is home grown.

No drugs were ever recovered, and only one person was put behind bars for drugs trafficking.

The justice minister, Wimie Sorgdrager, and the police bore the main criticism for failing to fight organised crime. The justice department was singled out for allowing thousands of ecstasy tablets to be shipped to Britain.

The route across the channel was closed down only when British police inadvertently stopped a lorry driver carrying a cargo of the drug. But while the ecstasy routes were partially closed, several other routes remained open.

The Amsterdam branch of the IRT monitored four similar shipments but failed to tip off their English counterparts. Yet they paid an informer £300,000 to keep an eye on the shipments.

The report outlined new rules and a restructuring of the Dutch judicial mechanism to place greater emphasis on targeting criminal gangs.

The disgraced IRT method saw police squads across the country recruiting small-time dealers as spies. Many dealers were encouraged to import

large amounts of drugs to establish themselves as potential partners for existing drug barons. They were given immunity from prosecution and allowed to keep all profits, tax free.

But the plan backfired when the spies double-crossed the police and went to work for the drug barons. It was four years before the police found out they had been outwitted and at least 400,000 kilograms of marijuana and 10,000 kilograms of cocaine had been brought into the Netherlands.

In one failed operation, police lost 20 roll-on roll-off containers containing marijuana.

Four drug gangs which benefited from the five-year investigation are still in busi-

ness, the report said. Criminalologists estimate that more than 8,000 people are employed full-time by the drug gangs.

The French and German governments have urged the Hague to adopt a stronger anti-drugs policy. President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl are to meet the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, in March to discuss the issue.

Officials maintain that all drugs brought in during the operation were consumed in the Netherlands. But a straw poll of local dealers contradicts that. The industrially treated cannabis favoured by the gangs is regarded as of inferior quality in Amsterdam's coffee shops, and the local cocaine market remains small.

Sarajevo's bridge of unity lives up to its name again

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

ONE of the most graphic symbols of the Sarajevo siege, the barricades on the Bridge of Brotherhood and Unity, were finally cast aside yesterday as hundreds of civilians crossed between government and Serb-held areas of the divided city for the first time in nearly four years.

Reunited families were locked in tearful embraces and policemen from opposing sides shook hands and chatted on the 30-yard concrete bridge, whose socialist name had until yesterday been a sick joke for those who live on either side.

Throughout the war, the bridge over the River Miljacka was Sarajevo's "Checkpoint Charlie", a heavily fortified crossing point where, like its counterpart in Berlin, prisoners were exchanged and a small number of civil-

ians with special permits were allowed to cross.

It was also one of the city's most dangerous spots. Many of the upper-storey flats on both sides of the bridge were converted into sniper nests.

Nato officials hailed the bridge's opening as a success for their "patient but tough" pressure on both sides. In the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza, however, the Nato-led Implementation Force is facing a threat from rogue gunmen.

Nato troops tightened their security after six sniping incidents in the district since Sunday, including one in which a British soldier was struck on the wrist.

Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor of the United Nations war crimes tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia accused Serbia yesterday of failing to cooperate and expressed pessimism about catching indicted Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic soon.



A policeman admires the giant painting by the German artist Gotfrid Helnwein at the opening of his one-picture exhibition at St Petersburg's Russkij Museum yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: ALEXANDER DEMANCHUK

German shrine to free speech under threat

Cyberspace is the censor's new forum, Ian Traynor in Cologne reports

RIGHT by the main entrance to Cologne's cathedral, Walter Hermann's shrine to free speech is under threat.

Five years ago last month, the homeless former art student, aged 57, inaugurated the "wailing wall" by the cathedral walls, a constantly changing exhibit featuring hundreds of cardboard "bricks" strung between triangular scaffolding on which anyone can write anything.

The Church and the city authorities have been trying ever since to muzzle him and evict the "democracy forum".

Mr Hermann's idea has proved popular, even a tourist attraction. There are 800 inscribed "bricks" on display, written in many languages.

Another 40,000 placards are stored in a Cologne bunker.

But battle is raging in the city's courts. Last month, the judges ruled that Cathedral Square is Church and not public property, and that the authorities may remove what they regard as an eyesore.

The vagrant's lawyers are appealing, insisting that the wailing wall is on public property. "This is a public, not a private matter," argues Mr Hermann. "What is at stake here is freedom of expression and of assembly."

A world away from the homeless of Cologne, Germany's battle to balance the public interest and the rule of law with freedom of expression is also being played out, more trickily and controversially, in the new democratic theatre of cyberspace.

Last month, the Bavarian prosecution authorities threatened to sue CompuServe, the United States online service provider, for facilitating the illegal circulation of child pornography via the Internet.

The company responded by barring access to 200 user groups, the first known instance of global censorship on the Internet because of the action of a single government.

Last week, the Germans struck again. Prosecutors in Mannheim forced the online service provider of the national telecommunications company, Deutsche Telekom, to close access to the cyberspace site of a German neo-

Nazi propagandist who lives in Canada.

The new technology is forcing the hand of the law. It's a new development," says Professor Basil Markisisinis, director of Oxford's new institute for the comparative study of European law, set up with German funding.

If the Internet is the apotheosis of free speech, Germany looks bent on refining in the electronic frontiers to make what is available internationally conform with national law.

"The German constitution has a very nuanced set of rules which balance free speech against other conflicting interests," said Prof Markisisinis. "There is no black-and-white approach that says free speech is everything, as with the American approach. The reputation is everything, as with the English approach."

"If they tear down the wailing wall, we'll build it again. This is a piece of living democracy"

Germany is uneasy with American-style unfettered freedom of expression. Verbal incitement to racial hatred is a criminal offence, and public denial of the Holocaust was criminalised following the racist violence after reunification five years ago.

The result is that victories for freedom of expression can generate outrage at the highest levels of the democratic political elite.

A few months ago, the constitutional court ruled that it was permissible to describe all soldiers "as murderers", sparking Chancellor Helmut Kohl to fume that it was intolerable that "our soldiers be equated with criminals".

The test case derives from the 1950s when the German critic Kurt Tutscholsky coined the aphorism "soldiers are murderers". He was tried and acquitted on charges of slander, but in 1994 a German pacifist was arrested for broadcasting the same sentiment via a car radio.

Mr Hermann may not go all the way to the constitutional court, but he is unabashed by legal threats. "If they tear down the wailing wall, we'll build it again. This is a piece of living democracy here."

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The habit of a lifetime

Spontaneous fires spark fear in French toy town

The boffins are baffled and new age speculation abounds about the mystery fires which have brought terror - and death - to eastern France, reports Alex Duval Smith in Moirans

IN THE toymaking capital of France, no one doubts the existence of Father Christmas. But as a series of inexplicable fires continues to sweep Moirans, thoughts are turning to Lucifer.

For three weeks in this small town deep in the Jura mountains, household objects such as tins of food, garden furniture and a bag of cement have spontaneously burst into flames. Last week two people died after three fires broke out within seven hours in one house.

The best brains in France have been brought in to study what is known here as "the phenomenon": small fires, with orange flames, which can ignite in drawers or airing cupboards and often appear to start on metal objects.

In most of Europe, Thursdays are welcomed as a step

closer to the weekend. But in northern Moirans they are dreaded, because the 15 fires to-date have happened at the end of the week, usually in the afternoon.

One after the other, nuclear physicists, seismologists and geologists have been stumped. Police have ruled out arson. A man with a diving pendulum has been pacing the Rue Roussin and a witch doctor has held court in the Prise d'Eau bistro.

In his elegant 17th century *mairie*, Jean Burdeyron, the town's mayor, was straining to distinguish the facts from the fiction spreading like wildfire among Moirans's 2,200 inhabitants.

"Mr Burdeyron said: 'We pride ourselves in having our feet firmly on the ground. But it is getting harder and harder to be rational. When I first

heard that the people who died had suffered third-degree burns under inebriated clothing, I assumed it was just rumour. But I gather it is true.'

At the bar in the cafe Chez Fred the chat-chat among workers from the toy factory

was interspersed with the vocabulary of physicists. They were considering whether to believe a controversial "ionised hydrogen theory" or the Armenian evidence — that seismic activity is disturbing an underground pocket of flammable gas.

In a trailer by the police station, Bernard Grossiord, the regional director of Electricite de France, was receiving a stream of residents. They wanted to return to their homes in Rue des Carres, which has been struck eight times and was the scene of the fire which on January 20 killed a 50-year-old woman and a fireman trying to rescue her.

emitting high-tension current. The theory suggested this was turning metal-framed villas into micro-wave ovens.

Mr Grossiord stopped short of admitting that all rational theories had been tested, but said: "All I can do for the moment is send my staff out with voltage meters again and keep monitoring all the transformer stations."

Only one thing is clear amid the confused clues which have emerged since a small fire started on a coat-hanger in Charles Raffin's wardrobe at 3.15pm on January 7 — scientists and residents do not trust one another to find a solution.

Most of the residents have come round to the "ionised hydrogen theory", if only because it is resisted by the scientists. It was put forward last week by Jean Meunier, who describes himself as a disciple of Haroun Tazieff, a French volcanologist.

Mr Meunier said: "What we are dealing with are telluric currents. Moirans sits on a geophysical fault line which

allows ionised hydrogen to escape and be ignited near the surface."

Mr Meunier — who points out "no one believed Galileo either" — is not alone in coming up with alternative theories. In the Prise d'Eau bistro, Emile Battista, a witch doctor from the Pyrenees, said: "Only an exorcist sent from the Vatican can save Moirans now."

In a country where the fires of Hell have not been abolished, he found an attentive audience. But he discounted one theory: that if you stick a pin through the globe at Moirans, it emerges at Mururoo atoll, France's nuclear-testing site in the South Pacific.

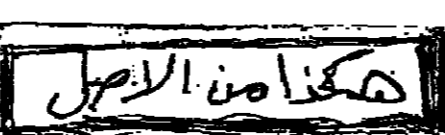
Mr Battista said: "I think we have progressed from the days of believing in divine retribution."

A few doors away, Madeleine Cordier, aged 82, was not discounting any theories. The tiles on her roof slid off all at once on Saturday.

"It was not a fire, but it was not normal either," she said. "I am going to stay with friends this weekend."

'We pride ourselves in having our feet on the ground. But it is getting harder and harder to be rational. I assumed it was rumour, but I gather it is true.'

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Words of wisdom... A man studies the Koran in the 1,000-year-old Azhar mosque in Cairo before breaking his fast at sunset in keeping with his devotions during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. PHOTOGRAPH: MOHAMED EL-DARHAGNY

Nigerian 'hate' campaign threatens Soyinka's life

A fearful dictatorship has made a series of charges against the exiled writer, writes **Chris McGreal** in Port Harcourt

POSTERS threatening the life of the exiled Nigerian Nobel literature prize winner, Wole Soyinka, have been plastered across Lagos two days after a government minister implicated him in bomb attacks.

The posters, signed by "committed patriots", denounce opponents of the country's military dictator, General Sani Abacha, including the National Liberation Council of Nigeria (NLC) led by Professor Soyinka.

"To snarlist Professor Wole Soyinka and his Nalicon cohorts we say: he who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind (and) you may run but you can't hide," the poster warns.

The threats come amid rising paranoia within the regime since the recent death of Gen Abacha's son in a presidential plane crash, and both explosions in the northern cities of Kano and Kaduna. The dictatorship has accused foreign governments of supplying military and financial assistance to exiled

opponents, and claims British Intelligence is plotting to break up Nigeria. Gen Abacha has even turned on sympathetic voices in the media, attacking them for insufficient patriotism.

The government is keen to ensure that no one thinks the death of Ibrahim Abacha, who ran his father's considerable financial interests, was anything but an accident. There is no evidence to the contrary but the crash, which killed 19 others, and the bombings have clearly shaken the regime.

A previously unknown group claimed responsibility for the explosions at a Kaduna hotel and one at Kano airport. The only casualty was the bomber himself in the hotel blast.

A government investigation has not turned up any suspects, but earlier this week the minister for special duties, Wada Nas, pointed the finger at Prof Soyinka, even though the only "evidence" linking him to the scene is a copy of one of his books found on the hotel bomber.



Wole Soyinka: Refuses to criticise bombings

Nigerian state television followed with a flood of allegations, including charges that Burkina Faso has offered Prof Soyinka and other exiles a military base for armed training, and that the South African government supplied political exiles with £360,000 and a building in Johannesburg for their campaign against the Nigerian regime.

Prof Soyinka, in an interview during a visit to South Africa, denied any connection with the attacks, or receiving foreign financial and military assistance. But he declined to criticise the bombings.

"You want to ask me

whether I approve of actions taken against a pernicious and universally vilified regime? For now, I am going to keep my opinion to myself," he said.

Military officials are also distributing an article attributed to an unnamed American magazine which claims to prove that foreign intelligence agencies are plotting to destroy Nigeria. Among the conspiracies is an alleged liaison between MI6 and the historian Basil Davidson, who wrote *The Black Man's Burden*, an analysis of the shortcomings of colonialism imposed borders in Africa.

The article claims British intelligence and Mr Davidson plan to eradicate existing states and return the continent to tribal kingdoms.

Mr Nas said he could not understand why Prof Soyinka remained in self-imposed exile, saying he was in no danger if he returned home.

Wada Nas quoted the example of the prominent lawyer, Gani Fawehinmi, as one where a government opponent was free to campaign for a return to civilian rule.

The next day, Mr Fawehinmi was arrested after trying to address a student rally. He is still detained, supposedly for questioning in connection with the bombings.

Peres plays down gap with Syria

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

ISRAEL'S negotiations with Syria on the future of the Golan Heights are going well, the Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, insisted yesterday, but he signalled a tough line on bargaining over West Bank settlements and Jerusalem.

Speaking in London after meeting the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, Mr Peres said the latest session of talks with Syria had given him grounds for optimism — in contrast to more downbeat assessments from both the United States and other Israeli leaders.

"Neither Syria nor ourselves have a better option," he said, "I do believe sincerely that President Assad [of Syria] has decided to take the road of peace. It is only a matter of time before we shall have peace with Syria and Lebanon as we did with Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians."

Discussion of economic co-operation, normalisation, water issues and security arrangements in an atmosphere of "total informality" had been an innovation in talks near Washington that ended on Wednesday, Mr Peres said.

But with all other accounts suggesting a wide gap between Jerusalem and Damascus — on sensitive issues such as whether Israel is prepared to withdraw fully and Syria to normalise completely — the prime minister seemed to be thinking wishfully and with an eye to voters at home.

Warren Christopher, the US secretary of state, is to visit the two capitals again next week, but Washington is playing down hopes of an imminent breakthrough.

Mr Peres failed to respond

to suggestions that he call a general election before the October deadline — risking a confrontation with the opposition Likud over concessions to the Arabs. But he said if he did so, it would be for domestic reasons and not because of the peace process.

Israeli newspapers speculated yesterday that Mr Peres, still riding a wave of public sympathy after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin last November, would call the elections in mid-May.

Asked about problems with his electorate over a deal with President Assad, Mr Peres told the BBC: "I think the country will agree to make peace with Syria once we know we will have real peace. I feel this time the Syrians are much more serious than ever before."

Agreement with Syria, Israel's most implacable enemy, is the missing piece in the Middle East jigsaw. But Mr Peres indicated tough talks ahead when Israel and the Palestinians begin talks on a final peace settlement in May.

Jerusalem, which Palestinians demand as their capital, was "religiously open but politically closed," he said. Israel captured East Jerusalem in 1967, then annexed it.

On the West Bank, where some 130,000 Jews live in settlements established since 1967, Mr Peres reinforced the tough message of recent weeks that, after the two Oslo agreements on Palestinian self-rule, future territorial concessions could be limited.

He said: "I do not see any reason why the settlers and Palestinians cannot co-exist once relations between them will be changed — and I already see the beginning of a change. I don't see any reason why we should take further steps."

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TOM BOWER

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Who will pay for pay?

Wage rises mustn't lead to bigger classes

THE NEWS that professional workers in the public sector are to be allowed pay increases averaging four per cent, as recommended by the pay review boards, is good news with a time bomb attached.

same scope for ever-increasing productivity improvements. Schools have suffered far too much already from having to sack staff, postpone capital refurbishment and increase class sizes (something the market-sensitive private schools never do) to finance underfunded wage increases parsimonious chancellors won't pay for.

Teachers will get around 3.8 per cent as their share of the new settlement. Since on the Government's own measure of living standards (the Tax and Prices index) a typical employee needs an increase of 3.6 per cent simply to offset the effects of inflation and higher taxes, the new deal is hardly generous: yet the price of implementing it will be a fresh squeeze on (non-pay) spending which cannot be squared with the Government's pledge to improve educational standards.

Last week the CBI suggested that the time was ripe for a return to the long-term trend of increases in real wages following the recent pause. The public sector not only has a right to share in any increased share of national income going to wage earners, but it is in the long-term national interest that this should be no otherwise the quality of people wanting to be teachers or doctors or nurses will decline. The catch, as so often, is that the Government has willed the end without providing the means. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has made it clear that he will not provide any additional funds to finance the increases. They must be either phased or financed entirely by productivity - which in the public sector is shorthand for yet more redundancies. Elsewhere, this is not uncommon. Most of the pay increases in manufacturing have been financed by higher productivity. That's the mechanism whereby industry continues to improve its international competitiveness. But hospitals and schools are intrinsically labour-intensive: they simply don't have the



Letters to the Editor

Bel lettres

TO paraphrase Bel Mooney's royalty-lapping letter (Letters, February 1) about the Godlike Catherine Bennett's good-humoured sport with the Prince of Wales: what the hell is wrong with Mooney and her ilk? The Prince of Wales proposes building Toytown villages, fills his beautiful animals for fun, sends his sons to public schools, publicly humiliates his wife, betrays one of his closest friends over a period of 20 years - and sits at the very top of a savage and Philistine edifice of privilege that is a very offence to the people of this country in itself.

TONY WRIGHT'S open letter to me (Good grammar, February 1) was "a reply" to an article which began with a complaint about the ignorance on which many of the arguments against non-selective secondary education are based. Dr Wright provides another example of the intellectual inadequacy of which I complained.

more money (both capital and revenue) should be spent on Birmingham schools - a view with which I entirely agree. Perhaps the "alliance", which Wright suggests in his last paragraph, could be built around his support for my proposal that the Labour Party commits itself to an increase in education spending. We're here to endorse that view: he would of course be defying the Modernisers' Orthodoxy - which includes a freeze on public expenditure as well as the denigration of comprehensive education.

IT IS hard to quibble with anything in Tony Wright's sensible analysis of where Labour ought to stand on education. Until the last couple of paragraphs, that is, when he urges his party to be more "imaginative" in dealing with the independent sector.

MUST take exception to the letter from Paul J Robinson (January 31) citing his being "in the same class" as Tony Blair as now, decades later, the latter decides political issues and policies. Who among us - Guardian editors, writers, letter-writers et al - would escape censure for what we did or thought umpteen years ago at school?

Salvoes across the water

Taiwan should treat Chinese threats with deft caution

THE CHINESE ARMY'S special show of military callisthenics this week, across the border from Hong Kong, was designed to soothe public opinion. Lunging with bayonets and employing flame-throwers may seem an odd way to reassure Hong Kongers that life will be entirely peaceful after June 30, 1997. But for Beijing to refrain from deploying troops in Hong Kong - a territory under colonial rule for a century and a half - would have been an amazing act of self-denial.

status, becomes harder to deny. Meanwhile on the mainland pressure may increase for the problem to be solved finally once and for all. It was not just rhetoric which led Deng Xiaoping, while announcing his new policy of speeded-up economic reform in 1992, to say that the "reunification of the motherland" still remains the top priority. Patriotic assertion has become to an increasing extent a substitute for defunct socialism. And the man or woman on the Number One bus passing through Tiananmen Square is likely to feel as passionately as the top leadership about the missing bits of China.

Can the heightened tension in the Taiwan Straits also be seen as merely a symbolic reiteration of Chinese sovereignty, or is the Beijing leadership being nudged by an assertive army into a more worrying posture? The speech by Premier Li Peng, repeating the threat that an overt move towards Taiwanese independence could prompt a military attack, said nothing new. Since 1950 China has refused to renounce the right to use force "in the last analysis" - as Mr Li put it. Equally since 1950 China has never shown any serious intention of wishing to invade. But the situation has not stood still. In Taiwan the ruling Kuomintang has only managed to retain power by giving ground to the independence lobby while as time goes on the de facto reality of an independent Taiwan, whatever its notional

The return of Hong Kong (and soon afterwards Macao) to Beijing moves Taiwan inexorably up the agenda. In one sense this should be good news for Hong Kong: there is even less good reason for Beijing to throw its weight around unnecessarily and by doing so to make the Taiwanese even more nervous. Some reassurance may be found in the growing economic role of the People's Liberation Army. Directly or through family members, its officer corps is now deeply engaged in entrepreneurial activities. But "in the last analysis" this factor is not decisive. The PLA is a formidable force with more offensive muscle than in previous decades: the possibility of miscalculation cannot be ruled out. Taiwan should behave with practical caution. No one is asking the Chinese to renounce anything but it would be in their best interests to tone down the pyrotechnics.

WOULD this Bel Mooney be in any way related to Jonathan Dimbleby, sometime public confessor to our would-be sovereign?

LONG ago, I was a classmate of Tony Wright at an average Midlands grammar school. He was then radical enough to reject an early entry to power and privilege by turning down an Oxford scholarship and going to LSE instead (it was 1967). His attempt at a defence of grammar schools and selection suggests his radicalism has been blunted.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, Independent Schools Information Service, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.

HOW comforting to know that Paul McCartney (Message from Macca: All you need is fame, January 31) is going to try his hand at teaching, without any formal training or qualifications. I expect Linda is already busy preparing a recipe for environmentally friendly chalk.

I think we should be told. Jack Critchlow, 73 Sherwell Hill, Torquay TQ2 8LX.

AT FIRST I thought I had Amy Bels confused. I assumed that Bel Mooney's letter was, in fact, one of Littlejohn's wonderful pastiches.

probably better qualified than most of these family members. J H McCrindell, 159 Hartington Road, London SW8 2EY.

THE principal reason why so many politicians and people object to the proposed single European currency is that they fear the monopolistic power which will accrue to those who control it.

unemployment. There is scope for experimenting with other currencies at the local and regional level, if, as we believe, they can prove useful in mobilising unemployed or underemployed resources to rebuild impoverished communities.

The vicious circle of peace talks

Inertia in the National Forum reflects deep problems outside

COMPARED with the Northern Ireland peace process itself, the National Forum for Peace and Reconciliation is something of a sideshow. Yet the Forum, a body sponsored by the Irish government, was part of the original Downing Street Declaration of December 1993. Though boycotted by most unionist parties, it provided an early opportunity for Sinn Fein to become involved in political discussions with other parties. The forum has been meeting quietly in Dublin most weeks for the past year and a half. Now, on the verge of producing its report, it has suddenly run into trouble because Sinn Fein is reluctant to sign.

any agreed settlement. If that issue has proved a stumbling block in the forum, it will clearly be one in any full all-party talks on Northern Ireland. Some will say that it is unreasonable for Sinn Fein to be expected to commit itself on this vital question at this stage. If Sinn Fein is to accept such a thing, they will argue, it can only be as part of a comprehensive settlement. That argument should be treated with respect. Nevertheless, Sinn Fein's balking over consent is another disturbing reminder that - unlike all other Irish nationalist participants - it has never committed itself to the principle that Northern Ireland must consent to any agreed overall outcome to the peace process. Its reluctance is central to the context in which unionists feel compelled to seek elections as a preliminary to any all-party talks. Sinn Fein's caution may be tactically understandable, but it bodes badly for the future.

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Right to reply

YOU reported (January 27) the suggestion that Greenpeace wants "to give up action in favour of talking". In May 1994 you reported the allegation that Greenpeace had "gone soft" and you reported similar suggestions in April 1995. This regular annual, the Greenpeace-soft story in the Guardian, has occurred unusually early this year. It is, of course, no more accurate than it was in 1994 or 1995.

Don't swallow the House wine

TERENCE HIGGINS (Unloved MPs feel the pinch, February 1) is not correct when he says that MPs' pay has been static for 30 years. When I was elected in 1982, the salary was £1,750 and I paid my secretary £750. The net pay of £1,000 was then further eroded by other office costs, which were not covered by any allowances. Nor did the taxpayer contribute to our pensions or redundancy payments. There were none of these benefits. Ignoring all other factors, £1,000 in 1982 was worth about the same as £20,000 in 1995, less than one third of a present-day Member's salary.

This is the decree absolute

YOUR article referring to recent changes in the law regulating demarcation of Indian lands in Brazil (Rape by decree, January 31) gives a wholly unbalanced account of the issue. The new decree regulating demarcation allows those potentially affected to state their case to the authorities - a basic constitutional right that was lacking in previous legislation.

A Country Diary

CAVE HILL, CO ANTRIM: "The wages of sin are death," proclaims the graffiti on the darkened wall of the epynonymous cave 100 feet above Belfast Lough, adding an appropriately Presbyterian touch to the gathering wintry gloom. Mid-week, the hills which flank Belfast are friends only to men with whippets, but come the weekend they are the lungs of city-dwellers. Summer walkers were treated to the ducking and diving of a pair of peregrine falcons. It's 12 miles from end to end of the sweep of fells, but in December the sensible option is a steep, scrambling climb from Belfast Castle to the 1,600ft summit. It was here, at the neolithic ring known as McArt's Fort, that the United Irishmen swore to overthrow the power of England in Ireland forever; Presbyterians all, in the days when Ian Paisley was no more than a twinkle in his great, great, great grandfather's kneecap. It's little wonder that the view inspired them to such lofty ambitions. You can see

Barter system is good value

unemployment. There is scope for experimenting with other currencies at the local and regional level, if, as we believe, they can prove useful in mobilising unemployed or underemployed resources to rebuild impoverished communities. We call upon the political parties, business leaders and citizens of this country to consider carefully the advantages of liberalising money by allowing the use of co-existing currencies at different levels, rather than granting a monopolistic right to control a single European or national currency.



سكنا المرحل

Diary

Matthew Norman

My old friend Harry Greenway, cerebral Tory MP for Ealing North, has made another lunge into the public consciousness...

EDUCATION watchdog Ofsted has been counting replies to a questionnaire it sent to 25,000 schools...

WORK drought forces Taki-George to New York (or "the Big Beagle", in his baffling Anglo-Nicosian argot)...

ELSEWHERE in the Spectator, meanwhile, is a letter attacking Lord Howe for the spineless failure to check the outrageous misbehaviour of MPs hiding behind parliamentary privilege...

NEWS arrives to cement Gordon Brown's carefully cultivated reputation for fiscal prudence...

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FROM Ruby Wax's brilliant BBC1 interview with Imelda Marcos last weekend, one fact continues to haunt me...



Clocking on to the chimes of Big Ben

Commentary Peter Preston

No. Wrong. Hopeless. Keep Lord Nolan out of it. What MPs get paid is nothing to do with him and has no relationship to the vital agenda he and his team have yet to tackle...

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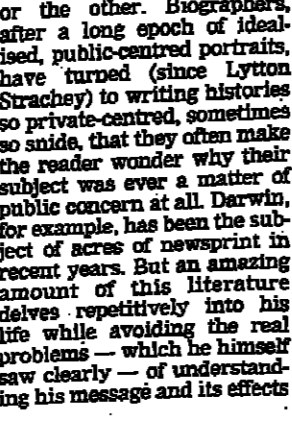
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public respect because of what he's said about them and done to them. He's there: he's convenient. But the second strand is the stronger, and seedier, one. It wraps a passed parcel of blame. MPs feel suddenly, angrily short of money because Nolan has cut some of the channels that supply it...

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of comfort — a million, two million. That's as logical as claiming that people who collect stamps as an obsessive hobby will stop collecting once they've filled their album. Human beings don't think like this...

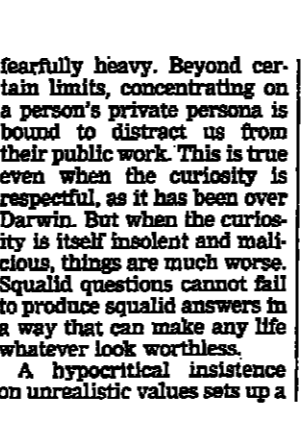
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MPs who preferred the old ways and the old bodging could be non-executive directors

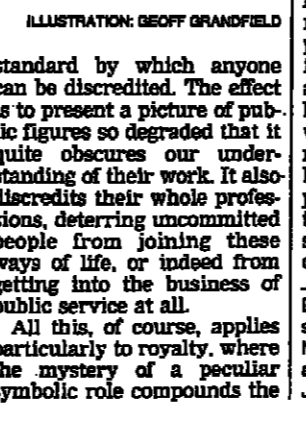
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themselves in the foot in the pursuit of a policy quite as clear and quite as obvious as...

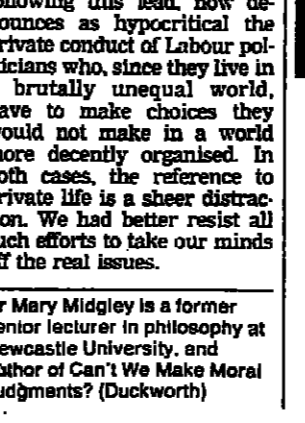
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Let me spel out why eggheads crack me up



Bel Littlejohn

THANKS, Henry. Thanks a bloody lot. Just when we were really getting going, you've gone and put the cause of media studies back by roughly 1,000 years...

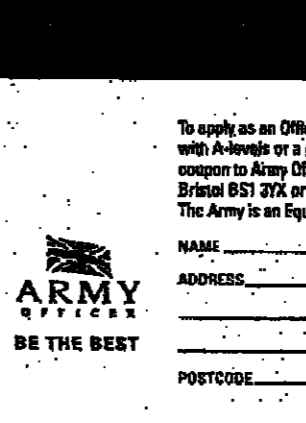
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capacity of The Terminator, and thus cannot develop into a truly late-20th-century character. You could argue, I suppose, that a modern production of Hamlet might portray the guy as a brilliant robot...

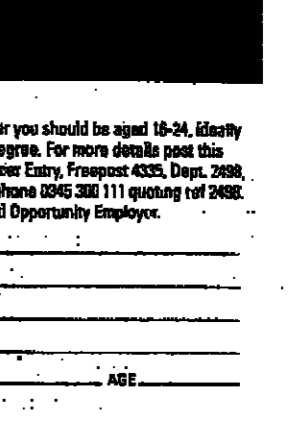
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Private lives of public figures, from the royals to Harriet Harman, face unprecedented scrutiny. But, Mary Midgley warns, an insistence on unrealistic values is hypocritical

To do the decent thing

HYPOCRISY is a funny thing. On the whole it is supposed to count as a vice. We expect people's acts to be as good as their words...

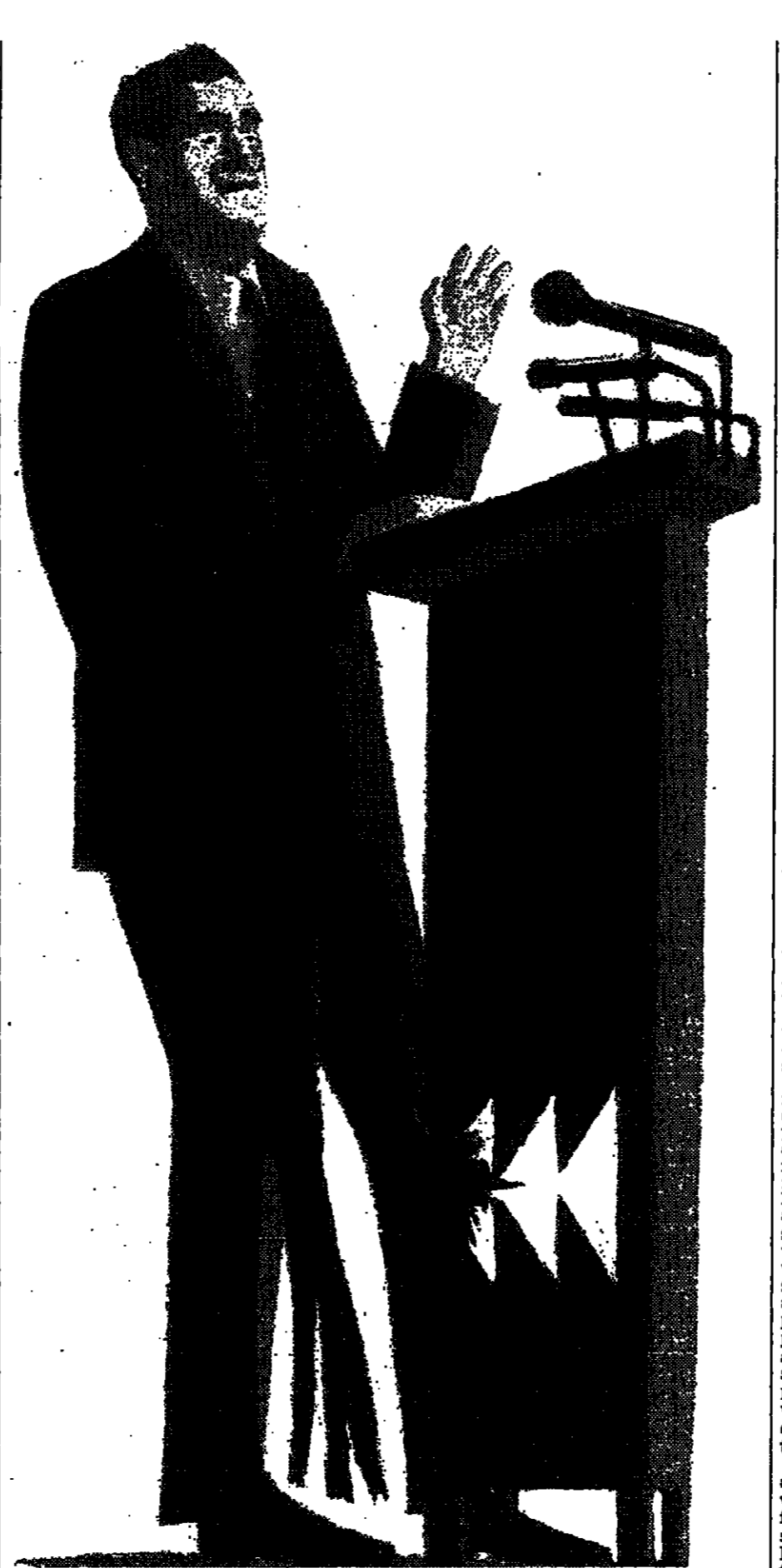


ILLUSTRATION: GEOFF GRANDFIELD

ordinary difficulty of relating public to private life. Peppy's naive surprise about the rain is not exceptional. As Canute found, it is quite often necessary to prevent kings and queens do not have supernatural powers...

At present, republican campaigners evidently think that this kind of belief in royalty is no longer possible. They are simply dead wrong. The monarchy must go...

Their response is to distract attention from his policies by whipping up a hypocritical frenzy of indignation against selected details of his private life. The Government, following this lead, now denounces as hypocritical the private conduct of Labour politicians who, since they live in a brutally unequal world...

COULD YOU BE A MORE INSPIRING LEADER?

Good leaders must weigh up all the facts quickly. Make important decisions, then communicate them clearly and precisely. They have to lead by example, never asking people to do things they wouldn't do themselves...

Application form for Army Officer with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Age, and a section for 'To apply as an Officer you should be aged 18-24, identify with A-levels or a degree...'.

Welsh Water alters name

WELSH Water hopes to add the ring of confidence to its reputation by changing its name to Hyder.

PHOTOGRAPH JEFF MORGAN



Biotech boom turns sickly

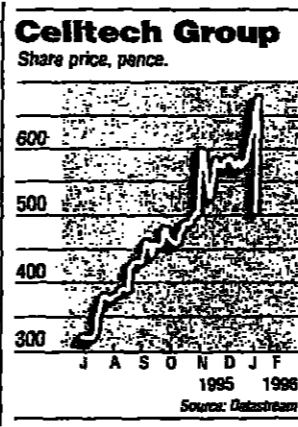
HUNDREDS of millions of pounds were wiped off the value of biotechnology shares yesterday as the wonder stock Celltech undermined confidence in the entire sector by announcing plans to scrap development of an asthma drug.

throughout the "biotech-bubble" as analysts woke up to the commercial risks faced by drugs companies trying to develop new products.

Chiroscience Group shed 15p to 365p, British Biotech fell 10p to 221, while Scotia Holdings was 7p lighter at 604p.

Peter Fellner, the company's chief executive, said: "We and Merck are going to continue our efforts in this area. We want to send out the message that there is real hope we can have blockbuster drugs here."

month in glowing circulars from brokers Yamachi and Greig Middleton.



Britain's oil and gas output reach 10-year high

OIL and gas output surged last year to their highest levels in 10 years as new offshore fields came on stream and cold weather boosted energy demand, analysts at the Royal Bank of Scotland said yesterday.

Clifford Chance in show of confidence over writ

CLIFFORD Chance, London's largest commercial law firm with more than 230 partners, yesterday sought to play down concerns over a \$610 million writ by four Canadian banks relating to the collapse of London's Canary Wharf office development.

Stotia and the National Bank of Canada allege that their loan of \$400 million to O&Y in 1989 was made with inadequate security because of bad advice provided by the law firm.

multi-million pound settlements have been made. A spokesman for Clifford Chance said yesterday that the firm was not challenging the details of the banks' allegation and accepted that "technical errors had occurred".

Newsprint price rises slow down

NEWSPRINT suppliers managed to impose smaller than expected price rises last month, raising hopes among newspaper owners that raw material costs have peaked after increases of around 70 per cent in the past 18 months.

Euro setback for Fokker

SHARES in Fokker, the Dutch aircraft maker under court protection from creditors, fell 16 per cent after the European Commission said it could not help the company.

News in brief

Britannia poised to issue loyalty bonus

BRITANNIA, the country's sixth largest building society and a staunch defender of mutual ownership, said yesterday it would announce details of a loyalty bonus scheme for members within the next couple of months.

Double cut in rates

THE German and French central banks have trimmed interest rates to combat mounting unemployment and avoid a recession in Europe's two biggest economies.

Midland staff jobs demo

MIDLAND Bank staff are planning to protest against job cuts outside some of the group's London and Essex branches over the next two weekends.

Hard line on currency

BUNDESBANK president Hans Tietmeyer last night reaffirmed Germany's hard line over a single currency by insisting that the Maastricht treaty economic convergence criteria must be interpreted strictly to avoid the failure of economic and monetary union.

Misy's reports £19.2m profits

COMPUTER software company Misy's yesterday unveiled a 71 per cent rise in half-year profits to £19.2 million.

Table titled 'TEACHERS' BUILDING SOCIETY' showing interest rates for various terms and amounts. Includes sections for 'NOTICE TO INVESTORS' and 'MONTHLY CONTRACT SHARES'.

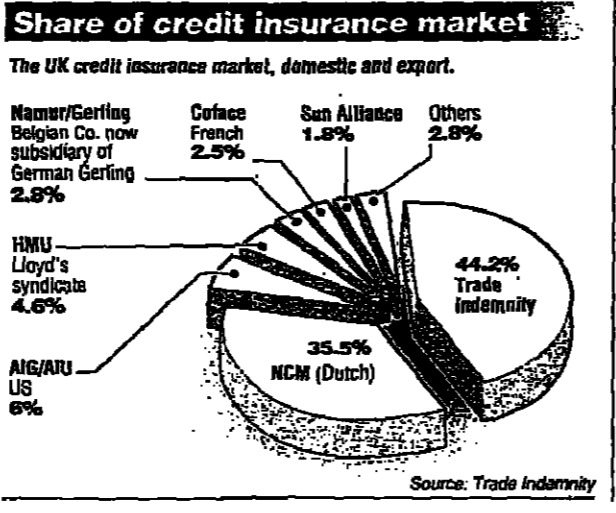
Trade Indemnity willingly submits

OUTLOOK/French bid for UK No1 is relief, reports Pauline Springett

BRITAIN'S largest credit insurer, Trade Indemnity, has fallen to the French. TI is being bought by its much larger Gallic rival, Compagnie Financière SFAC which yesterday launched an agreed cash bid of £177 million.

contracts. Of course, it is more sophisticated than that and increasingly involves the credit insurer providing valuable financial information on the business to its customers.

is one of the main driving forces behind the link-up. Mr Bishop stressed that the deal had not been forced on him.



Nokia Digital Security. Cellphones Direct Prices!

Advertisement for Nokia Digital Security Cellphones Direct. Features a Nokia GSN Model 2010 mobile phone, pricing information (£9.99 inc. VAT), and contact details for Cellphones Direct. Includes a list of features like 99 name/number memory and 30 hrs standby time.

The Guardian Friday February 2 1996

Cricket

World Cup safety spotlight switches to Pakistan

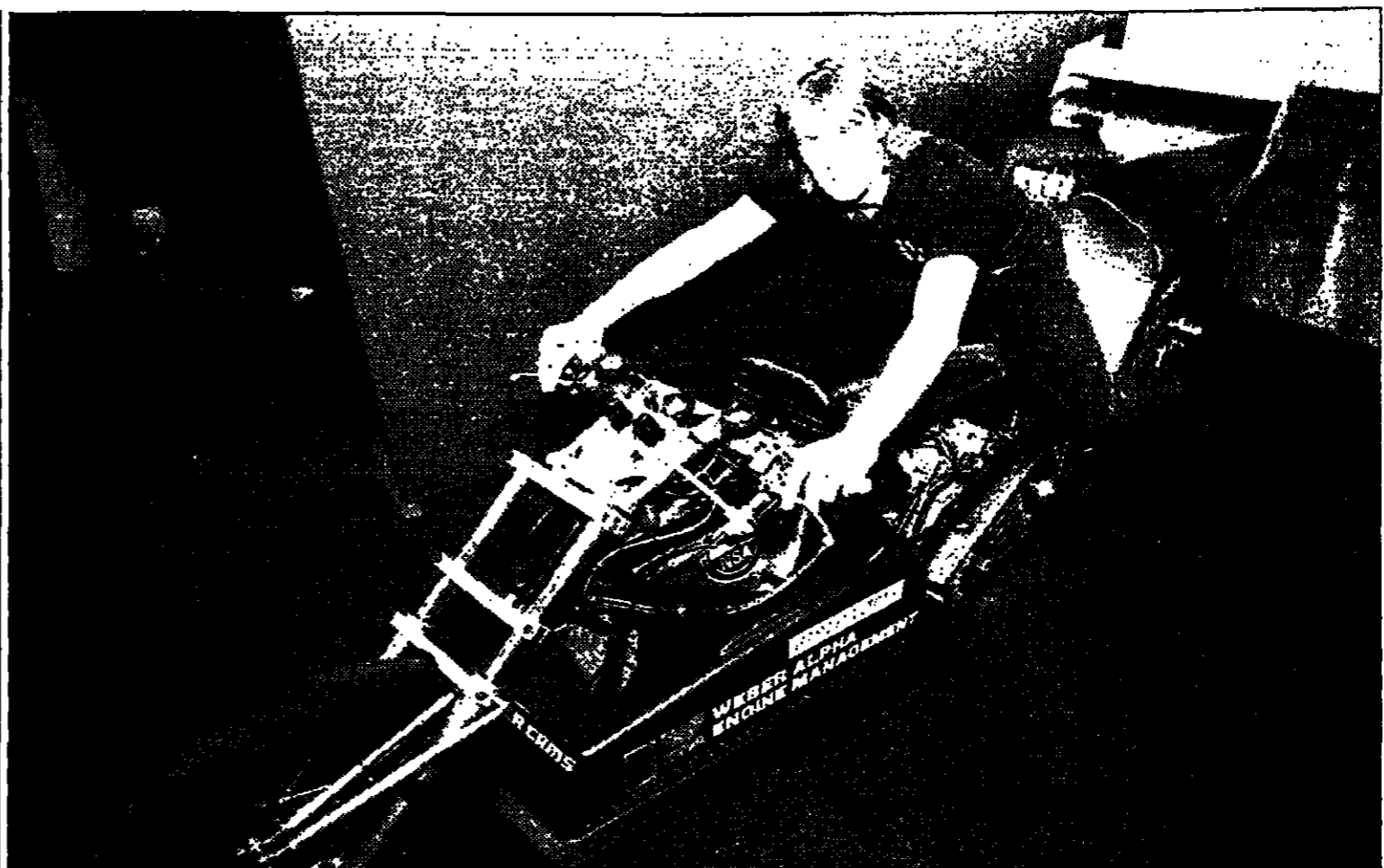
Kathy Evans, and Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

AS WORLD CUP organisers promised a full review of the security situation in Sri Lanka after Wednesday's suicide bombing in Colombo, new fears were raised about the reception that may await England when they fly to Pakistan tomorrow to begin their preparations for the tournament. In Islamabad the fundamentalist Jamaat Islami party warned yesterday that the sight of players eating or drinking on the field during the current fasting month of Ramadan might infuriate devout Muslims. Pakistani law punishes violation of the dawn-to-dusk fast with a maximum three-month jail term. A party spokesman hoped matches would be rescheduled; if not, players should eat with discretion. Pakistan Cricket Board officials have announced special precautions in Karachi where England play Pakistan in March 3. The southern city — which will host two other matches — is currently experiencing the worst period of violence since independence. Last year some 1,900 people died in clashes between paramilitary forces and Mohajir Quami Party (MQM) militants from the largest ethnic group in the city. This year there has been no let-up in the violence. However, government officials stress that the situation in Pakistan has nothing in common with Sri Lanka's. "There have been no mass killings in Karachi like Wednesday's bomb in Colombo, only isolated encounters and shoot-outs," said one government official. Even so, cricket board officials said that spectators at the matches would undergo strict screening and body searches and would be banned from carrying food, drink or radios into the stadium. Some cricket commentators in the city said there were growing fears that ethnic groups might be tempted to take maximum advantage of the international publicity the tournament could give to the conflict in Karachi. Others believe that the World Cup may actually provide the city with a breathing space from the violence. "The frenzy of cricket overcomes everything. We are hoping it could bring the beginnings of peace to the city."

particularly since Javed Miandad, a son of Karachi, will be playing on the team," said one leading editor. In India, cricket board officials said they were making special arrangements for the safety of the Australia and Pakistan teams at the inaugural ceremony at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on February 11, and that security in the city had been tightened. Meanwhile Zimbabwe said they still intend to fulfil their fixture against Sri Lanka in Colombo on February 21. "We've come from what used to be a war-torn country," said their manager Denis Strick. "Hopefully security will be good. We don't see it as a major problem; we're not going to get too concerned about it. You could get run over by a bus in the street; it's just one of those things. Strick said that none of the team was concerned about the possible dangers, a view sharply at odds with the view from Australia, whose players are reluctant to travel to the tournament. "I don't see the next week whether to forfeit their opening match there. David Richards, the chief executive of the International Cricket Council, conceded yesterday that the explosion was "obviously a matter of concern", adding that he had spoken to officials from the tournament's organising committee and "an assessment of the position will be carried out over the next two to three days". In Leicestershire, due to visit Sri Lanka on a pre-season tour next month, are reviewing the situation "on a daily basis", and two New Zealand rugby teams, Otago and Auckland, yesterday called off two exhibition matches in the island next week.

Kent pin hopes on Hooper return

KENT are hoping that their West Indian batsman Carl Hooper will be fit for the start of the season after being laid low by a mystery illness. Hooper is resting after pulling out of the World Cup and the county's secretary Stuart Anderson said: "He is feeling very well after a long spell of intense cricket and needs a complete break." In the third and final Under-19 Test in Bulawayo, maiden centuries from Noel Gle (118) and Owais Shah (114 not out) put England in the driving seat against Zimbabwe. At the end of day two, England were 335 for five, a lead of 192.



Dream machine... Graham Sykes needs £5,000 to become the fastest man on two wheels in Britain, and possibly the world. He will be at the Road Racing and Superbike Show at Alexandra Palace today touring for a sponsor so that he can buy and adapt the five-litre Rover engine that he reckons will give his superbike "Syko" a top speed of 270 mph. The British record stands at 200.9 mph; Dave Campos's world record is 322.15 mph

Sport and Television

BBC steps up pressure to protect events

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

THE BBC stepped up the pressure on the Government yesterday to ensure that top sporting events are not poached by satellite television. A survey commissioned by the corporation revealed that nine out of 10 people believe the major events are part of the nation's heritage and should be available for everyone to see live on mainstream television. Seventy per cent said the Government should legislate to protect sport on the main channels — a view shared by 66 per cent of subscribers to Sky Sports. The BBC published the survey in an apparent attempt to capitalise on increasing political pressure for the Government to act. Next week an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill, tabled by a cross-party alliance of peers including Lord Howell, the former sports minister, and Lord Weatherill, former Conservative Speaker in the Commons, will be debated at Westminster. It would extend the protection of the eight "listed events" — including the Olympics, World Cup and Wimbledon — and prevent them being shown exclusively on subscription and pay-per-view channels.

The survey by BMRB, of 1,288 people, showed that 92 per cent wanted live coverage rather than highlights; 82 per cent said coverage of top events was an important public service. Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC TV, said: "Even those who pay extra for sport subscription believe major events on mainstream television and should be universally available as a public service."

Table with 2 columns: '10 events people most want to see live on TV' and 'Live event (Source: BMRB)'. Lists events like Olympic Games, World Cup football, Commonwealth Games, etc.

Racing

Maguire set fair for quick return at Sandown

Chris Hawkins

ONE of the great ironies, not to say injustices, of jump racing would be if Adrian Maguire were to be denied the satisfaction of ever becoming champion jockey. This inspirational rider had 194 winners last season but failed by five to beat Richard Dunwoody after breaking his arm at a crucial time, having finished third with 130 winners the season before. Already his title hopes this season are forlorn as injuries and his reluctance to ride during the summer meant that he trails the meteoric Tony McCoy by 57.

ear, Billygoat Gruff and Martin's Lamp. His knees can only be his saddle at Sandown tomorrow just 11 days after a particularly nasty fall at Leicester. Original medical opinion was that he would be out for at least three weeks with a knee injury but he has satisfied Dr Michael Turner at the Jockey Club that he is fit and passing the course doctor at Sandown now seems a formality. Maguire rode out two lots for David Nicholson yesterday morning and came back saying: "I'm feeling 100 per cent and if Sandown is on I'll ride Percy Smollett, Pharos, Billygoat Gruff and Martin's Lamp."

course, although he wouldn't want the ground too heavy at Sandown. "I'm not a fan of the heavy ground," said Beattom. Conversely, it cannot be too soft for Master Oats, a real mudlark, although something of a question mark still hangs over the current champion whose third to One Man at Sandown was a below par effort. One Man is a star, of course, but Master Oats was four lengths adrift of Monsieur Le Cure, a horse who simply could not live with him at Sandown today, course and distance winner Seeking Destiny (2.00) is napped in the Falham Handicap after

his defeat of the beat subsequent winner Westman's Weight last time. Michael Chapman, trainer of Seeking Destiny, can also score with Sea God (4.30), who finished well clear of the rest when short-headed by So Amazing in a fast-run race at Southwell last week. Today's Kelso meeting was called off yesterday morning because of frost and snow, and Folkstone is subject to an early morning inspection, with overnight frost forecast. Prospects are not good for Chepstow and Sandown tomorrow, but hopes are higher at Wetherby where this morning's inspection is mainly precautionary.

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Derrymoyle Cheltenham bound after easy win at Punchestown

DERRIMOYLE gained a deserved win when justifying favouriteism in the Red Bog Hurdle at Punchestown yesterday. Trained by Michael Cunningham for Merry Gale's owner Herb Stanley, he quickened nicely on the run-in and was always holding Balawhar, his only serious market rival, by a length and a half, with the long absent Tiananmen Square just a length behind the runner-up in third. "He is no mean performer, but we won't be making up our minds before the Champion Hurdle and the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham until he

runs again on Saturday week at Navan in the Boyne Hurdle," said Cunningham. "He was third in the Ladbroke last month despite a strong gallop for the first mile. Derrymoyle is going the right way and Mark Dwyer can tell us after Navan, hopefully, where to go with him at Cheltenham," the trainer added. Balawhar's trainer Edward O'Grady was far from pleased with the way the race developed. "It's hard to know what to make of a race like that. He will be entered for the Boyne Hurdle at Navan and we'll see next week whether or not he runs," said O'Grady.

Folkstone runners and riders

Racing results table for Folkstone, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Racing results table for Sandown, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Southwell all-weather Flat card with form guide

Racing results table for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Racing results table for Derrymoyle, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Results section containing various racing results and statistics, including 'LINDFIELD' and 'EDGEFIELD' sections.

Promotional graphic for 'RACELINE' with contact information for 'P'ESTONE' and 'GREYHOUNDS'.

Soccer

Asprilla deal is still alive

Jon Ross and Don Best

THE flood of foreign players into English football, which spread yesterday when West Ham signed Dani de Cruz...

Yesterday, 24 hours after the Colombian international's proposed £5.7 million move from Parma had seemingly collapsed...

Newcastle's manager Kevin Keegan, having persuaded some of his board of directors that they should still sign the gifted striker...

Parma have threatened legal action if Asprilla transfer is not swiftly confirmed. "The contract is valid in all respects," said a spokesman...

of the medical. If they are doubtful — and there is no reason to be — Newcastle should have arranged a medical before they signed a contract...

He may get the chance to excite Upton Park tomorrow, with West Ham's manager Harry Redknapp saying yesterday that Dani would be in the squad for the home Premiership match against Nottingham Forest...

On the other side of London, another manager, Ray Wilkins of Queens Park Rangers, was delighted when the winger Andy Impey signed a new two-year contract...



Yes Serb, that's my habies... David Pleat brought Stefanovic, left, and Kovacevic to Sheffield Wednesday for £2.5 million each

MICHAEL STEELE

Ferguson wins appeal over ban

DUNCAN FERGUSON will not have to serve the remaining seven games of a 12-match suspension after winning his appeal against the sentence...

The decision challenges the SFA's practice of acting on a supervisor's report when a referee has failed to take action against a player during a match...

Ferguson's sentence was handed down more than 18 months ago after he had been charged with assaulting John McStay...

After all this time it is good to get this behind us," said Everton's manager Joe Royle. "I am absolutely delighted for Duncan."

club's chairman Peter Johnson said: "With regard to the judicial review and the judgment delivered this morning, I and all concerned are pleased with the outcome..."

Curcic is just one of a growing number of Serbian imports from the former Yugoslavia who are as good if not better than the domestic product...

Kevin Pilkington, the Manchester United goalkeeper now regarded as No. 3 at Old Trafford after the signing of Tony Coton...

Birmingham's manager Barry Fry has renewed his £1 million bid for the Bristol Rovers striker Marcus Stewart...

Curcic stars in Serbia's tale of tape

The former Yugoslavia is providing rich pickings for Premiership clubs — often via video cassettes. Cynthia Bateman reports

SASA CURCIC is playing beautifully and scoring goals. The Serb, who came to Bolton Wanderers from Partizan Belgrade for £1.5 million...

Curcic is just one of a growing number of Serbian imports from the former Yugoslavia who are as good if not better than the domestic product...

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The 23-year-old midfielder, a silky, skilful, pleasing-on-the-eye player, arrived at Bolton, as do most of the current imports from the former Yugoslavia...

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Uefa to hear clubs' ideas

Martin Thorpe on ground-breaking talks in Geneva

JUDGING by some recent stories one could be forgiven for thinking that the leading European clubs' meeting with Uefa next Wednesday is about to change the footballing landscape...

Uefa has invited the top 12 leagues within their jurisdiction to send three clubs each to the meeting in Geneva...

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Results, Soccer, Rugby Union, Golf, Tennis, Basketball, Ice Hockey, Snooker. Lists of sports results and fixtures.

Fixtures, Soccer, Rugby Union, Baseball, Basketball, Tennis, Athletics. Lists of sports fixtures.

Sport in brief, Baseball, Basketball, Tennis. Short news items and reports.

EC still begs to differ

THE European Commission claimed last night that, although Uefa had become more flexible over transfer fees after the Bosman ruling, the two sides are still far apart on the rule allowing clubs to field three foreign and two assimilated players.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off.

Drugs and Sport

Peter Nichols reports on the promising teenager who faces a four-year ban amid concern at the rising use of 'social' drugs

Weightlifter positive for ecstasy

DEAN THOMAS, a 17-year-old weightlifter from Didcot, has become the first junior athlete in Britain to test positive for ecstasy.

Thomas was tested after winning the under-56kg category at the South Midlands Divisional Championships at Aylesbury on November 12. The A sample showed traces of methylene dioxymethyl-amphetamine (ecstasy) and Thomas has admitted taking the drug.

Only two competitors in British mainstream sport have previously tested positive for ecstasy, namely the ice hockey players Mark Palister and Richard Tomalin in November 1994.

Thomas denies that he used the drug to improve performance, and readily admits that he had become over-dependent on the drug for social outings.

Michelle Verroken, head of the council's doping control unit, stated: "We can't determine from the test programme why people are found to have taken a drug."

B sample confirms the positive. A former pupil of St Birinus School in Didcot, he continued to train with its weightlifting club after he left school in July 1994.

Rugby Union

Recall is just reward for resilient Rodber

Robert Armstrong meets the England flanker who was not picked against France but returns against Wales at Twickenham

TIM RODBER understands the capricious nature of Test rugby better than any other player in the England team.

Widely touted as the next England captain for much of 1995, the Northampton flanker suddenly found himself the target of criticism when England's form hit the doldrums in the autumn.

Rodber is an infantry captain, and the rigorous demands of his army career have helped him develop the hard mental edge required for survival in the international arena.

His commercial work is restricted to wearing Reebok boots, yet his fierce loyalty to Northampton, who have put the trauma of relegation behind them with a sparkling promotion challenge, allows him no respite from the pressures of professional rugby.

"Last season was a strange experience for me, sharing in a Grand Slam with England and dropping into League Two soon afterwards," he admitted. "Yet the atmosphere at Northampton could not be more positive nowadays and I'm glad to be part of that."

"I know what Jack [Rowell] wants from me: an extra physical edge, which I've been working towards in training. I know I'm a good defensive No. 6, that I carry the ball well, and I'm a reasonable jumper at five, where I get through a fair amount of work. I want to make all that pay off on Saturday."

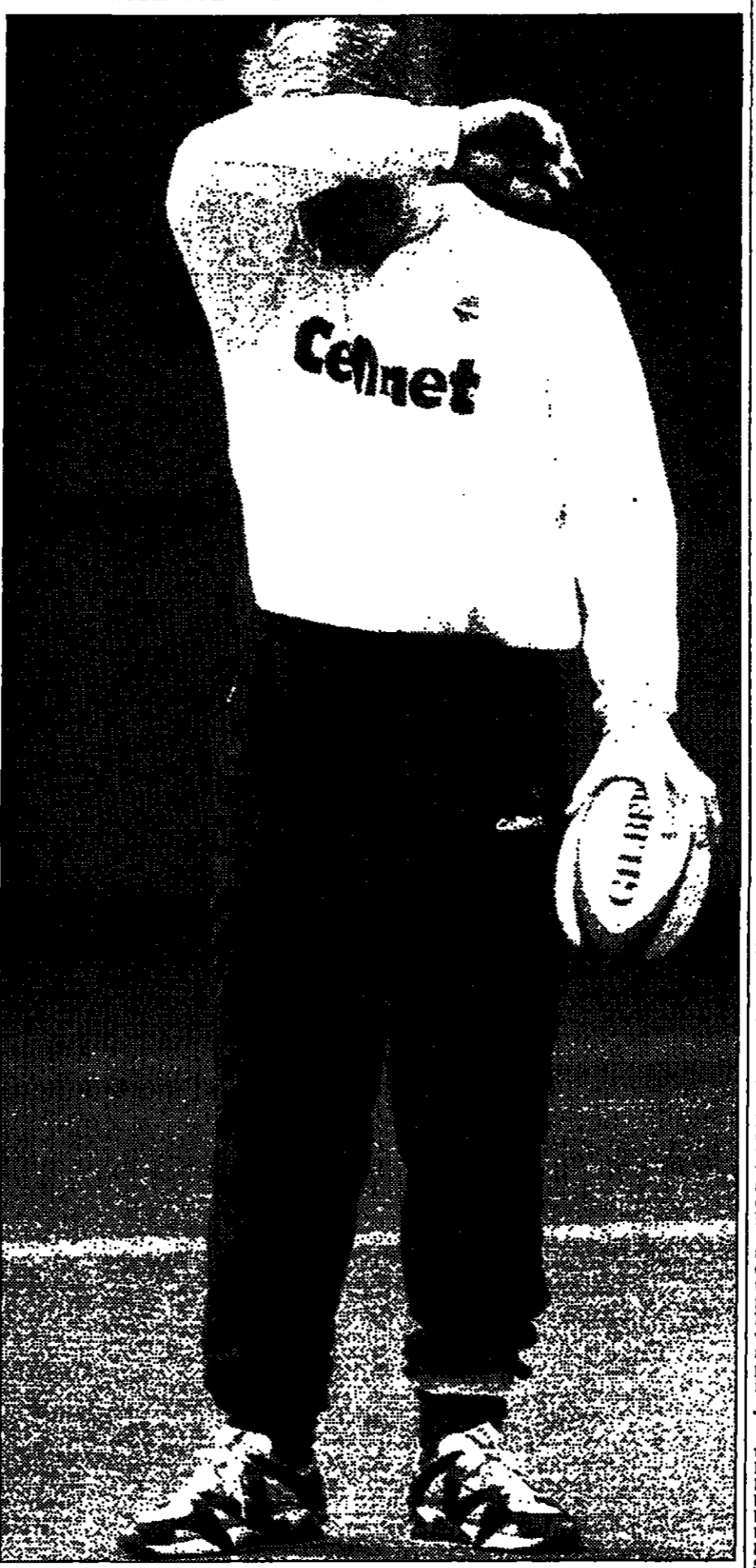
Certainly Rodber is light-years away from the stereotypical image of the blind-side of the recent past, conforming rather to the All Blacks' concept of the all-purpose footballer who sets up creative links between the back row and the midfield backs.

He has been regarded as an indispensable element in England's game plan, yet there was no compelling reason why he should not have been rested for the pool game against Western Samoa and the play-off against France.

Northampton. You tend to lose that sharper edge as a blind-side that you only get against League One opponents such as Clarke and Lawrence (Dallaglio). There's a difference that you're bound to miss, especially when you play for England.

"I'll admit you cannot maintain exactly the same level of form that produced 10 wins on the trot with England last year. It didn't help either that I was carrying an injury in the South Africa game — and I got a lot of flak for that — but I intend to just keep cracking on."

"The real difference for me has come from playing League Two rugby with



Sweating it out... Rodber has worked hard for his England place tomorrow FRANK BARON



Extra time Cherished colours hit the saddle

RACING lost £15 million last Saturday. But with prescience, perhaps, and ingenuity it has found a way of recouping its losses in the drift and brightening the bleak season.

colours are reserved at £2,000, the 13 combinations of a new and old at £1,000. All proceeds go to the BHB's Racing Administration Fund. It benefits everyone in racing.

Sixth column

THE two British weightlifters sent home from Barcelona before competing in the 1992 Olympics have spent the Olympiad as competitors should: working to get their own back on those who beat them.

Expert advice has come from Professor Arnold Beckett, who was succeeded by Cowan at King's. If successful he may be as pleased as the lifters.

THE iron business list of corporate sponsorship has taken hold at the African Nations' Cup in South Africa. Photographers have been banned from taking alcoholic beverages out to the pitch and been told to take labels off bottles of mineral water.



Wing in waiting... by Laing

As the classic proportion for open-air sculpture is 1 1/4 x life, they will all be the size of lock forwards. More figures may follow, bringing the forwards in. Their shapes appeal to Laing and size is no problem.

THE Barmy Army, England's cricket followers aspiring to respectability despite their soccer-style chants, failed to convince visitors to a wine cellar in France's north-west Stenlenbosch. The Afrikaans Press reports "bottles taken without being paid for, 'no smoking' signs ignored, locals harassed and lawn urinated on".

WHEN Britain's marathon selectors sit down this weekend to pick the Olympic team there will be a few knowing glances in the direction of the national coach Gordon Surtees. Among the athletes he coaches is Yvonne Danson, who finished third for England in the 1994 Commonwealth Games six years after taking up jogging.

JACK ROWELL was happy to explain his call-up of Paul Sampson, the 18-year-old Yorkshire schoolboy, to England's rugby squad training last weekend: "We have to look beyond what we cannot see as selectors, and Sampson fits that bill. Presumably Rowell has been on a course run by Graham Taylor.

Rugby League

Leeds' loss is Bulls' gain as Lowes decides to move

JAMES LOWES, the Leeds hooker, is the latest signing by Bradford Bulls as they prepare for Super League. Leeds were sorry to lose the versatile 26-year-old former Hunslet player, who is expected to sign today on a three-year contract.

lion but more money will be available for events promoted jointly by the sponsor and the Rugby Football League's marketing division. Maurice Lindsay, the game's chief executive, stressed that all clubs would benefit from Stones' money.

Snooker

Harold still rules

Clive Everton DAVE HAROLD came to Newport without having won a match all season, yet now finds himself one step away from the Regal Welsh Open final. Yesterday he beat Darren Morgan 5-2 to earn a semi-final against the 29-year-old Welsh left-hander Mark Williams this afternoon.

Squash

Cancer blow for Parke

RICHARD JAGO SIMON PARKE, the world No. 5, has begun chemotherapy after an operation for testicular cancer only weeks after leading England to the world team title in November.

Sailing

Brewster flying into headwinds

SAMANTHA Brewster is now 1,500 miles west of Cape Horn and on schedule to beat the east-west circumnavigation record of 161 days, averaging 200 miles a day despite facing mainly strong headwinds since passing the treacherous rock outcrop at the bottom of South America in her 67ft Heath Insured.

